SWS survey says more Pinoys are hungry

STORY ON PAGE A2

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PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER
BALANCED NEWS, FEARLESS VIEWS

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INGAT KAYO... SI JAMES BOND INI

James Bond, not house detectives

BY F. GALLARDO
PDI Mindanao Bureau

CAGAYAN DE ORO CITY—Hotels and resorts in Northern Mindanao would soon

JAMES/ A14

IN *Saturday*SPECIAL

- Jack Lemmon was Hollywood's great urban 'Everyman'
- Jericho Rosales, young acting standout
- Warwick, Parton honored by songwriters

LEMMON

Corpus, Lacson 'war' heats up

Isafp chief accused of being Ador's 'handler'

VICTOR Corpus: Take lie detector test.

PING Lacson: You first.

BY CARLITO PABLO, ARMAND N. NOCUM AND JEROME ANING

IT'S BEGINNING to look like a face-off between Sen. Panfilo "Ping" Lacson and Col. Victor Corpus.

Lacson yesterday urged Corpus, military intelligence chief, to admit that he was the handler of Angelo Mawanay alias Ador, who accused Lacson of plotting to kidnap prominent people and to assassinate others to destabilize the Macapagal administration.

But Corpus said he would resign and retire if Ador was found to be a government stooge let loose to discredit Lacson.

The word war between Lacson and Corpus flared as Ador, who claims to be a former civilian agent of the defunct Presidential Anti-Organized Crime Task Force (PAOCTF), reportedly passed a second lie detector test.

Both Ador and Corpus, head of the Intelligence Service of the Armed Forces of the Philippines (Isafp), asked Lacson to undergo a lie detector test to determine who among them were telling the truth.

"Corpus should stop making these denials, lest he be called a liar," said Lacson, who concurrently headed the Philippine National Police (PNP) and PAOCTF.

Lacson claimed that it was the men of Corpus who fetched Ador from his house.

"How will they know Ador's house if they are not his handlers?" Lacson asked.

Corpus said he would even resign if Ador was proven that Lacson himself had let the ex-PAOCTF agent loose to confuse the public about crimes being imputed against him.

"If these accusations are true, I will resign and retire," Corpus said.

Corpus insisted that he was not Ador's "handler."

A "handler" as known in police and military circles is somebody who gives orders to civilian agents like Ador.

If Ador's claim is proven correct that he and other civilian agents were used by ranking PAOCTF officers for dirty jobs, his handlers were those whom he had previously identified, namely, Lacson, and Senior Superintendents Michael Ray Aquino and Cesar Mancao.

Corpus related that Ador first approached radio and TV personality Arnold Clavio for his revelations about the crimes allegedly perpetrated and being planned by Lacson and his men.

CORPUS/ A14

PRESIDENT Macapagal inspects damage to the Agno River in Bayambang, Pangasinan, where she distributed relief goods and released P5 million to repair the river dike.

DENNIS SABANGAN

Angel of mercy buried alive; death toll hits 101

BY THE PDI NORTHERN LUZON BUREAU

BAGUIO CITY—Whenever disaster struck, Barangay Captain Josephine Albon of Pinsao Proper made it a point to supervise rescue operations in her landslide-prone village of 3,200 residents.

But on Wednesday at the height of typhoon Feria's onslaught, Albon's luck ran out. She was helping rescuers dig out a mother and her daughter from a landslide that crushed their house when the structure caved in, burying her and Ludovina and Jellyn Tampican alive.

Albon, 60, and the Tampicans were among the Baguio residents reported killed in landslides triggered by the continuous rains.

With more reports on Feria's destruction trickling in yesterday, the number of deaths caused by landslides, drowning and electrocution in Baguio and in Northern and Central Luzon hit 101.

The typhoon also destroyed P232.57 million worth of roads and bridges, palay, vegetables, fruit trees, fishponds and other property in the Cordillera and Baguio, Cagayan Valley, Ilocos and Central Luzon.

Reports from disaster-response agencies showed that 29 people were killed in Baguio, 29 in Benguet, 14 in Ilocos Sur, 12 in Pangasinan, six in Abra, four in Cagayan, two each in Zambales and Mt. Province, and one each in Apayao, Ilocos Norte and Nueva Vizcaya.

Marcos Highway, a major link to Baguio, was opened to traffic Thursday night. Kennon and Naguilian Roads remained closed.

President Macapagal-Arroyo made a brief visit to Bayambang, Pangasinan, yesterday to assess the damage, and declared the province in a state of calamity.

Baguio and Benguet were de-

ANGEL/ A14

Peso gains as Palace vows 'bold measures'

BY CLARISSA S. BATINO AND CHRISTINE AVENDAÑO

THE PESO slightly recovered yesterday against the dollar and closed at P52.89, up by nine centavos, following the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas' intervention.

The peso may further improve in the coming days if President Macapagal-Arroyo is to be believed.

Ms Macapagal said her administration would undertake "bolder measures" to prop up the peso as he denied that the BSP was propping up the peso.

"Some bold measures would be undertaken in the coming days to overcome the internal problems that beset our economy," the President said.

But she did not say what these measures would be.

"*Abangan* (Just and wait and see)," was what she could say when pressed to elaborate.

BSP Gov. Rafael Buenaventura said "weak" demand for dollars at the Philippine Dealing System led to the slight recovery of the peso.

"The buying pressure had eased after we told the oil companies and other importers that we would offer them forwards cheaper than if they buy their dollar requirements now," Buenaventura said after he came from a celebration in Malacañang of the BSP's eight anniversary.

Forwards refer to buying dollars now at an agreed price for future use.

The month-long pressure on the peso had built up after companies started buying green backs ahead of their huge dollar requirements. At the same time, exporters and

PESO/ A7

GMA, Sin call divorce bill immoral, un-Filipino

BY GERALD G. LACUARTA AND JULIET L. JAVELLANA

LIKE a solid married couple in total agreement, President Macapagal-Arroyo and Jaime Cardinal Sin yesterday spoke with one voice to blast a divorce bill presented to Congress, attacking it as "un-Filipino," "immoral" and unconstitutional.

Despite the failure of previous divorce bills, Sen. Rodolfo Biazon filed the new one earlier this week as a way out for married individuals who have been mentally or physically abused by their spouses.

But Ms Macapagal described divorce as "a plague visited on children of divorcees" and its effects on children "as ugly as a nightmare."

And Sin, the influential archbishop of Manila, said in a statement: "Divorce is immoral. It is un-Filipino. It is absurd. I trust that we have enough sensible and intelligent legislators to fight this insane proposal."

Other divorce bills in Congress have failed because of the strength of the Roman Catholic lobby. An estimated 82 percent of the population is Catholic.

An aide to Senator Biazon told Agence France Presse its chances of passage this time will hinge on whether the chair of the Senate committee assigned to tackle the bill is in favor of the

GMA/ A7

'Hot spots' specialist new US envoy to RP

BY JENNIE L. ILUSTRE
PDI Washington D.C. correspondent

WASHINGTON—The man whom the Republican White House is expected to announce as its choice for ambassador to the Philippines is a "first-rate" career officer who has served as crisis manager in Kosovo, Bosnia and other sites of major conflicts in the 1990s.

James F. Dobbins, 59, has served for more than 30 years in various posts, including as special assistant to former President Bill Clinton (Democrat) and as senior director of the National Security Council for Latin American affairs.

Clinton appointed Dobbins last December as assistant secretary for European Affairs in the State Department, the counterpart of the Philippines' Department of Foreign Affairs. That post is now held by Beth Jones.

"This is clearly a Powell appointment," a top political expert and TV analyst told the INQUIRER, referring to Secretary of State Colin L.

HOT SPOTS/ A14

JAMES F. Dobbins: States' peace operations manager in Kosovo, Bosnia, Haiti and Somalia.

Cebu mayor bans media owned by political rivals

BY CONNIE FERNANDEZ
PDI Visayas Bureau

CEBU CITY—In a move reminiscent of the Palace ban on INQUIRER reporters from the press conferences of former President Joseph Estrada, Mayor Tomas Osmeña has banned reporters from Sun*Star Cebu and radio station dyHP of the Radio Mindanao Network from his regular press conferences or any interviews.

Osmeña claimed that the two media outfits had a "political agenda."

"Sorry, no Sun*Star," Osmeña told the reporters covering City Hall as they entered his office to cover his first press conference on July 3.

He then asked two reporters of Sun*Star Cebu—Jasmin Ginete-Suma-oy and Ginging

CEBU/ A13

BIGYAN NA NG PANSIN ANG KAHIRAPAN!

Survey says more Pinoys are hungry

By Juliet Labog-Javellana

SIXTEEN percent of Filipino households are hungry, the Social Weather Stations has found.

This is the highest figure recorded for hunger incidence since the polling firm began tracking poverty levels in the country in July 1998.

In its survey for March 2001, the SWS also found that 59 percent of Filipino households considered themselves poor.

SWS head Mahar Mangahas reported these findings to the Bishops-Businessmen's Conference, which held its 25th general assembly and Mass at Malacañang yesterday with President Macapagal-Arroyo as guest of honor.

In her speech before the bishops, the President disputed criticism that her five-month-old administration has sidelined poverty alleviation, in order to cope with the Abu Sayyaf and the Estrada loyalist political challenges.

As a Christian President, Ms Macapagal said, she will "bring the face of the Redeemer" to the poor.

Specifically, the President said the government would disburse P20 billion this year for the modernization of agriculture, including P6 billion for irrigation projects to spur productivity and uplift the lives of farmers.

She ordered Health Secretary Manuel Dayrit to reduce the prices of medicines for the poor to half of current prices.

She said the figure of 170,000 families, which have titles to their land could be raised to 300,000 by the end of the year.

She also said she has begun an emergency employment program for an initial batch of 300,000 out-of-school and unemployed youths in Metro Manila to keep them from joining opposition protests.

Under Marcos

In his report dated July 5, Mangahas said that in a self-rated poverty (SRP) survey conducted in March, 59 percent of Filipino households described themselves as poor.

This was three percentage points higher than the poverty incidence recorded in December 2000, during the Estrada administration, which was 56 percent.

The SWS report showed SRP statistics from April 1983 to March 2001—spanning five presidencies, starting from Ferdinand Marcos, Corazon Aquino, Fidel Ramos, Estrada to Ms Macapagal.

The statistics showed that the highest SRP—at 74 percent—was recorded in July 1985 during the Marcos dictatorship.

The lowest was in March 1987 when 43 percent of Filipino households rated themselves as poor.

Mangahas said that since 1997, there has not been any government estimate on the incidence of poverty.

The SWS report showed that there were four instances when the government reported official poverty incidence—44 percent in 1985, 40 percent in 1988 and 1991, and 30 percent in 1994.

Aside from poverty, Filipino households are afflicted by hunger.

Record high

Mangahas said that in March this year, 16 percent of Filipino families reported experiencing hunger at least once during the past three months. Of this, 10.1 percent reported moderate hunger while six percent experienced severe hunger.

He said about one-third of those surveyed experienced not having anything to eat often, if not always.

"This is a record high ever since SWS started tracking hunger in July 1998," he said.

Mangahas said there were no government statistics for hunger.

Before March this year, the SWS recorded a 12.7 percent overall incidence of hunger in all Filipino households in December 2000 where 8.5 percent experienced moderate, and 4.2 percent, severe hunger.

By "moderate," the respondents meant they experienced hunger only once or a few times while "severe" means hunger was experienced often or always.

The households were asked if in the past three months they experienced hunger and did not have anything to eat only once, a few times, often or always.

In his speech at the meeting, BBC national cochair Jose Concepcion Jr. said the group considers widespread poverty and social injustice as a contradiction of the Christian understanding of what being a person means.

He said the government and private sector should give urgency to the fight against poverty and to help the poor get out of this vicious cycle.

Corruption

Concepcion noted a statement of the World Bank president who said the poor were mainly affected by corruption in government. He also cited a WB report that said corruption has cost the country $48 billion in the past two decades ending in 1997, far exceeding the $40.6 billion foreign debt in the same period.

He said the 20 percent of project funding lost to corruption could be higher than the government's estimate.

Concepcion expressed optimism, however, that poverty could be conquered under Ms Macapagal's leadership, even if officially only one percent of the national budget had been set aside by previous administrations to fight poverty.

Ms Macapagal was adamant that alleviating the plight of the poor was a top priority of her administration and that her goal was to win the battle within the decade.

Don't let high rating fool you, militants warn GMA

By Andrea Trinidad-Echavez

PRESIDENT Macapagal-Arroyo should not let the reported rise in her net approval rating lull her into complacency, militant groups warned yesterday.

"Even with a zero percent margin for error, the increase of 13 percentage points in her approval rating neither means a stabilization of the political climate nor a trend toward stability," Sanlakas president Wilson Fortaleza said in a statement.

The most recent Pulse Asia survey, conducted between June 15 and 26, reported the President's net approval rating as having risen by 13 percentage points from +28 in May to +41 in June.

The survey noted that the President gained most from among the poorest class of Filipinos, the traditional base of support of jailed ex-president Joseph Estrada.

In a meeting with bishops and businessmen in Malacañang yesterday, the President was very appreciative of her latest approval rating.

"The Lord is affirming that I must be doing something right," she said in her speech.

Katipunan's 109th anniversary marked

HAD it survived as a movement, the Katipunan or KKK (*Kataastaasang Kagalang-galangang Katipunan ng mga Anak ng Bayan*) of Andres Bonifacio would be 109 years old today.

In observance of its founding anniversary, the National Historical Institute and the city of Manila will spearhead commemorative activities beginning at 8 a.m. at the Katipunan Foundation Site, El Cano and C.M. Recto streets, Binondo, Manila.

Wreath-laying rites will be led by the Office of the President, the Manila city government, the National Historical Institute, the DECS-Division of City Schools Manila, Boy and Girl Scouts of the Philippines, the local government of Tondo, the Descendants (Kaanak) of Gat Andres Bonifacio and the Alagad ng Kasarinlan.

A program will follow in which Manila Mayor Lito Atienza will deliver a message, while NHI chair and executive director, Dr. Pablo S. Trillana III, will give an inspirational talk. NHI-historical education chief, Dr. Regino P. Paular, will give the welcome remarks.

The response will be given by architect Arturo Valenzuela, grandson of Dr. Pio Valenzuela, one of the trusted officers of the Katipunan.

DOJ goes straight to top to get info on Irene accts

By Alcuin Papa and
Andrea Trinidad-Echavez

THE DEPARTMENT of Justice has bypassed normal diplomatic channels and directly requested German and Swiss ministers to provide more information on accounts held by Irene Marcos-Araneta in Switzerland in hopes of recovering the fabled Marcos billions.

Justice Secretary Hernando Perez said Philippine officials were having difficulty tracking the Marcos heiress' Swiss accounts despite a German investigation confirming that the Aranetas "prepared" in February to transfer funds from a Zurich account believed to hold ill-gotten wealth into a bank account in Dusseldorf.

"Yes, it is difficult. That's why we sent it (request for more information from Germany and Switzerland) on the (Cabinet) level because if it's on the embassy level only, we might not be able to get it (money in the accounts) back. It needs to be done on the ministerial level," Perez told reporters yesterday.

He also said "we should be able to submit to the President by Monday the report concerning the investigation of the Irene accounts in Germany and Switzerland."

As of now, the DOJ has no plans of calling Irene to explain the attempted transfer. "As soon as we finish the report we shall think of our options" and confer with the Presidential Commission on Good Government on possible courses of action.

The department is in the process of translating the German documents, which Perez said were basically "a confirmation of the fact that indeed Greggy and Irene Araneta went to Germany and made several attempts" to transfer deposits from the Union Bank of Switzerland (UBS) into new accounts at Deutsche Bank.

He added that the DOJ has so far not issued a hold departure order against the Araneta couple.

Another obstacle to the recovery of the funds, Perez said, is finding out the exact location of the assets, believed to be worth billions of dollars.

"First, the trickiest part is finding out where the funds are. Apparently, what happened was the attempt to transfer did not materialize," Perez said.

Australian investigator Reiner Jacobi claims to have followed the trail of the money from UBS to accounts in Liechtenstein and elsewhere, and has extensive documentation appearing to support some of his claims.

Perez said that while the recovery of the funds is far off, "it is running well."

Officials from the PCGG and the DOJ went to Switzerland and Germany recently to find out more about the alleged money-laundering attempt from officials there.

Militant groups urged the government to inhibit the PCGG from joining any future investigations involving the alleged ill-gotten Marcos billions, saying that the agency had failed to prove its worth for 15 years.

They also called on the government to immediately arrest the Aranetas.

The Concerned Lawyers for Moral and Effective Leadership (Clamor) challenged the government to include in its possible investigation a Makati-based law office which reportedly assisted the Araneta couple in the alleged money-laundering attempt. ***With a report from Delfin T. Mallari Jr. PDI Southern Luzon Bureau***

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PHILHEALTH Advisory
06-001-2001

For Employers in the Private and Government Sectors

PLEASE be advised that effective January 1, 2002, a new contribution schedule will be implemented in the payment and collection of contributions for all the employed members of the National Health Insurance Program (NHIP).

Below is the new contribution schedule to be shared equally by the employee-member and the employer:

Monthly Salary Bracket	Monthly Salary Range	Salary Base (SB)	Total Monthly Contribution	Personal Share (PS) (PS = SB x 1.25%)	Employer Share (ES) (ES = PS)	
1	P 3,499.99 and below	P 3,000.00	P 75.00	P 37.50	P 37.50	Effective January 1, 2001
2	P 3,500.00 to P 3,999.99	3,500.00	87.50	43.75	43.75	
3	P 4,000.00 to P 4,499.99	4,000.00	100.00	50.00	50.00	
4	P 4,500.00 to P 4,999.99	4,500.00	112.50	56.25	56.25	
5	P 5,000.00 to P 5,499.99	5,000.00	125.00	62.50	62.50	
6	P 5,500.00 to P 5,999.99	5,500.00	137.50	68.75	68.75	
7	P 6,000.00 to P 6,499.99	6,000.00	150.00	75.00	75.00	
8	P 6,500.00 to P 6,999.99	6,500.00	162.50	81.25	81.25	
9	P 7,000.00 to P 7,499.99	7,000.00	175.00	87.50	87.50	
10	P 7,500.00 to P 7,999.99	7,500.00	187.50	93.75	93.75	
11	P 8,000.00 to P 8,499.99	8,000.00	200.00	100.00	100.00	Effective January 1, 2002
12	P 8,500.00 to P 8,999.99	8,500.00	212.50	106.25	106.25	
13	P 9,000.00 to P 9,499.99	9,000.00	225.00	112.50	112.50	
14	P 9,500.00 to P 9,999.99	9,500.00	237.50	118.75	118.75	
15	P10,000.00 and up	10,000.00	250.00	125.00	125.00	

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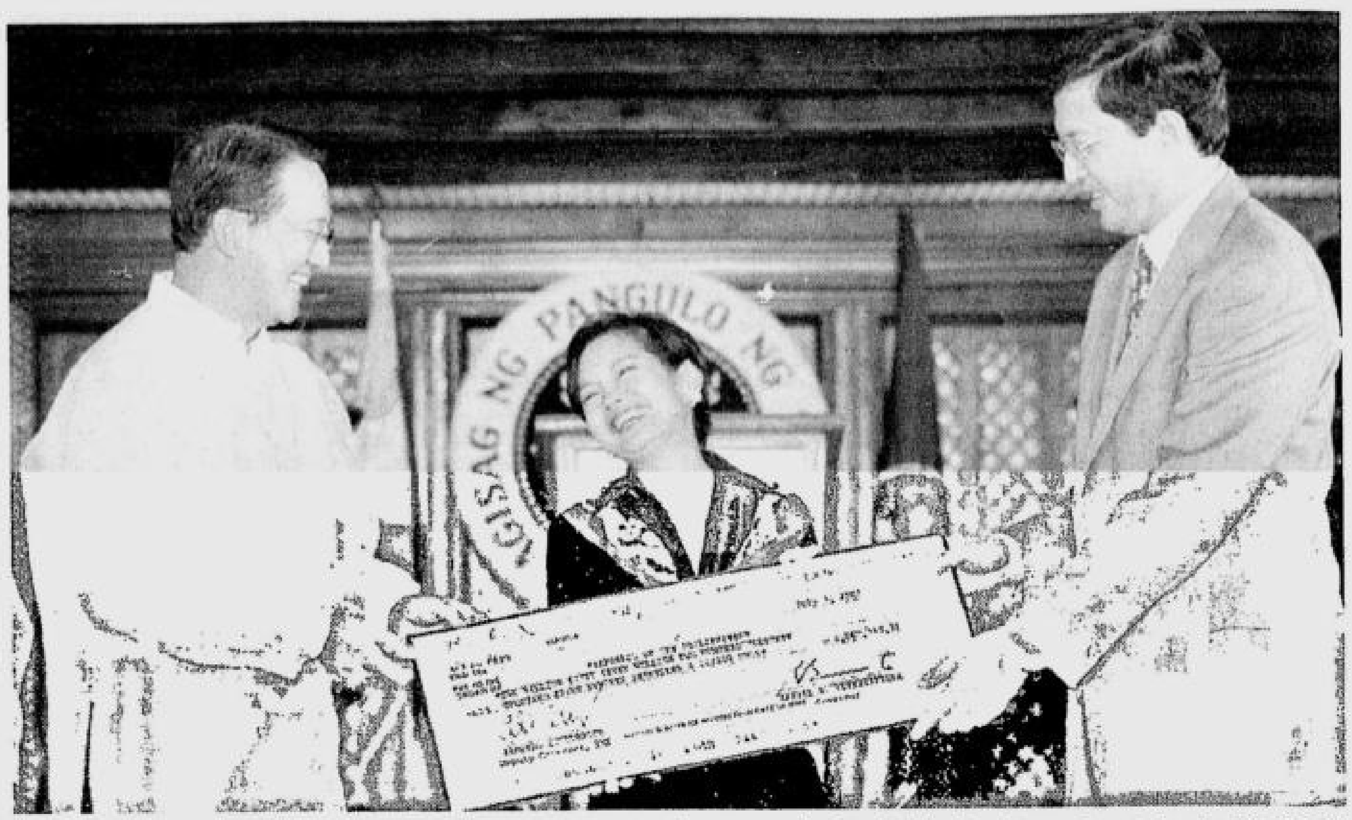

P2B SMILE. President Macapagal flashes one of the biggest smiles seen on her face lately after she was handed a check for P2.06 billion by Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas Gov. Rafael Buenaventura representing the government's share in the net income of the Central Bank for the year 2000. At right is Finance Secretary Jose Isidro Camacho. ERNIE U. SARMIENTO

Erap favors live coverage of trial

BY ALCUIN PAPA

GROUPS calling for live media coverage of jailed ex-president Joseph Estrada's plunder and corruption trial got an unexpected boost from the accused himself.

In a surprise call to radio station dzMM from his Veterans Memorial Hospital "cell," Estrada said he was amenable to live media coverage of his trial, as long as there would be no commentaries on the proceedings and only the prosecutors, defense lawyers and members of the court would be allowed to speak.

The Supreme Court last week rejected by a vote of 8 to 6 a petition to allow live media coverage of the Sandiganbayan trial, scheduled to begin next Tuesday.

The high court said media coverage would violate the right of the accused to a fair and impartial trial and that justices would be swayed by public opinion.

Yesterday, various civic groups led by Plunderwatch and the Bagong Alyansang Makabayan (Bayan) submitted a request for the Supreme Court to review its decision.

Noting Estrada's stance, Justice Secretary Hernando Perez said he was agreeable to live coverage without commentary. The justice department, together with the Kapisanan ng mga Brodkaster ng Pilipinas (KBP), were the original petitioners for live media coverage before the high court.

"If the accused former president Joseph Estrada is willing to be covered, provided there is no commentary on the part of those covering the event, that would be acceptable to us," Perez told reporters yesterday.

But Perez said Estrada's lawyers would have to confirm their client's statement (agreeing to live media coverage) in open court "because that statement might not be acceptable to his attorneys."

In their letter to the Supreme Court, the civic groups said the Supreme Court's ruling against media coverage "(focused) on judicial frailty rather than what is expected of justices and judges."

"To premise any decision on human frailty is the height of human folly and this is what the (SC's) majority opinion does," the letter said.

"Our social realities show that it is not television that is the cause of the flaws of the judicial system, but social inequities," they said.

The group also argued that the right of the accused to a fair and impartial trial was the responsibility of the judges.

"Being human should not be an excuse for unjustness. If the justices think their conclusions would be influenced by television, they should stop watching television. If the justices think that their opinions will be shaped by (others), they should be barred from administering justice."

The groups also argued for free speech.

"The right of the people to information on matters of public interest and public concern is umbilically linked to the right to free speech. Without this right, no informed decision and no meaningful speech is possible."

The groups pointed out that CNN has beamed to the world the trial of former Yugoslav President Slobodan Milosevic who is facing an international court trial for war crimes.

"The international criminal court has allowed the television coverage of the Milosevic trial, and this is the standard set by the United Nations, which does not see any violation of the right to a fair and impartial trial."

In a statement to media, Bayan argued that live media coverage would prevent Estrada's lawyers from "unnecessarily putting up constraints just to delay or prolong the trial. The same goes for the prosecution. We would know first hand if they are wavering or have compromised the people's case."

In the same dzMM radio interview, Estrada lashed out at Ombudsman Aniano Desierto and accused the media of bias.

Estrada criticized efforts by Desierto to have him transferred to a jail cell.

"Even if I am more comfortable here (the Veterans hospital), I am not free, I have no freedom of movement. I am just here in my room," Estrada said.

He accused Desierto of "(wanting) to making things as hard for me as possible."

Estrada, 64, was moved to the military hospital on May 12 for treatment of bronchitis and emphysema.

He said Desierto and his other detractors "are showing off, they want to make a name for themselves," by going after him.

Commute is part of work, ECC rules

CAN WORKERS claim compensation for injuries sustained in accidents while going to and from work?

Yes, said the Employees Compensation Commission in a ruling in the case of a forklift operator of the Universal Robina Corp. who was stabbed while waiting for a ride to work in 1998.

The worker, Ronelio Galicia, filed a claim for hospitalization compensation under the Employees Compensation Program two months after the incident but this was disapproved by the Social Security System. The SSS maintained the stabbing happened outside his regular work schedule of 10 p.m. to 6 a.m.

On appeal, the ECC ruled in favor of Galica based on the "going to and coming from workplace" rule, which the commission said applied in the case.

The rule provides that an injury or death of a covered member in an accident, while going to or coming from the workplace, shall be duly considered compensable in the purview of Presidential Decree 626, which lays the basis for the Employees Compensation Program for government and private employees.

The ECC said, however, the rule shall apply only when the employee's commute is a continuous act, when he was not diverted by any other activity, and when he did not depart from his usual route to or from his workplace.

The ECC ruled that Galica's injuries were covered under the rule since the incident happened while he was on his way to work, on the route he usually took to get there.

Investigation showed Galica was waiting for a ride to URC on Oct. 24, 1998 when he was repeatedly stabbed in the back by still unknown assailants at around 9 p.m. He was then taken to the Rizal Memorial Medical Center in Pasig City.

Remaining Abu hostages still alive, military claims

ZAMBOANGA—At least two Americans and 19 Filipinos held by Abu Sayyaf guerrillas are still alive and have been seen by government agents in Basilan, the military said yesterday.

The report by "deep penetration agents" (DPAs), government infiltrators on the rebellion-torn island, was the first confirmation of the captives' location in almost a week.

The military spokesperson, Lt. Col. Danilo Servando, also said guerrilla movements were being increasingly limited by a 5,000-member military task force sent to Basilan to rescue the hostages, including US Christian missionary couple Martin and Gracia Burnham.

"We have sightings of the remaining hostages. They (the Abu Sayyaf) have no liberty to move in the areas controlled by them because of the troops' presence and information provided by our DPAs," Servando told reporters.

He would not say exactly where the hostages were last seen or what their condition was, saying only that they were in the Sampinit complex—a 30 sq.-km. expanse of tropical jungle in the hilly interior of Basilan.

Two Filipino hostages walked free Tuesday, reportedly after a huge ransom was paid.

Servando said the two had told their military debriefers they had been sleeping in an elevated area while in captivity, indicating the hostages were on one of the mountains in Sampinit.

The two said the American missionaries were still alive. The rebels have claimed to have beheaded a third American hostage, Californian Guillermo Sobero, but his body has not been found.

Sen. Rodolfo Biazon, a retired armed forces chief, had warned the kidnappers, who say they are working to set up an Islamic state in the southern Philippines, have sent 50 recruits to train with the ruling Taliban in Afghanistan.

Biazon said the information had been relayed to him by a Philippine official in a United Nations mission to Afghanistan investigating the training of suspected terrorists there.

The report means "we will have to contend with a strengthened Abu Sayyaf," he said on government television.

Washington and Moscow have accused the Taliban Islamic militia, which controls much of Afghanistan, of harboring suspected terrorists, including Saudi dissident millionaire Osama bin Laden.

Sen. Blas Ople, chair of the Senate committee on foreign affairs, has asked the government to use diplomatic channels to convince the Taliban to prevent the 50 suspected Abu Sayyaf members undergoing training in terrorism from returning to the Philippines.

But Ople raised reservations whether such negotiations could succeed, noting that "the government in Afghanistan under the Taliban is not noted for honoring diplomatic initiatives."

Meanwhile, the United Nations Security Council has adopted a resolution calling for, among other things, an arms embargo against the Taliban and demanded the immediate shutdown of their training camps in Afghanistan.

Under UN-SC resolution No. 1333, the Security Council insisted Osama Bin Laden surrender to the United States or any country acceptable to the US and the UN and have his trial held there. *Armand N. Nocum, with an AFP report*

This we'd like to see!

SENATE President Pro Tempore Blas Ople yesterday filed a resolution requiring all members of Congress to donate one month's salary to the government in a gesture of "solidarity with the suffering" Filipino people.

Although the move is expected to raise only about P7 million, Ople said what is important is the "symbolic" gesture by the senators and congressmen of sharing in the people's economic plight.

The 24 senators each earn a monthly salary of P37,000, while the 250 members of the House of Representatives make slightly lower salaries.

"Such a noble act of self-denial beginning with the members of Congress will be a declaration of solidarity with the suffering masses who bear the actual burden of supporting the economic recovery by their acts of sacrifice, such as foregoing higher wages until better times," Ople said in a press statement.

Ople said that if Congress sets the example, the two other branches of government, the executive and the judiciary, might be inspired to follow suit. *Armand Nocum*

Gloria won't do 'cha-cha'

ANOTHER resounding no to Charter change.

President Macapagal-Arroyo yesterday urged Congress to drop proposals to amend the Constitution, warning that the volatile issue would "divide the country at a time when we have much bigger problems to overcome."

"Any effort to change the Charter will be untimely, expensive and divisive. It will distract us from our priorities and major goals," the President said in an opening statement at her weekly press conference.

"We would all be helped if we just forget Charter change," she told reporters.

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Security tightened for revenue chief

PRESIDENT Macapagal-Arroyo has ordered beefed-up security for Internal Revenue chief Rene Bañez who has been receiving death threats apparently in connection with his ongoing drive to rid the tax agency of grafters.

In a speech before the 25th general assembly and annual meeting of the Catholic Bishops-Businessmen's Conference at Malacañang, the President said she was behind Bañez in his efforts to clean up the tax bureau, and urged her listeners to do the same.

Ms Macapagal said Bañez had been receiving death threats and she ordered the strengthening of his security detail.

The President said she was "grateful" the Supreme Court ruled in Bañez' favor and allowed the major revamp the commissioner was instituting to continue.

Several BIR officials had gone to the Supreme Court for a temporary restraining order to try and stop the revamp. The high court did not grant their petition.

Unfazed, the President said, "the same people" who sued to stop Bañez were still harassing him with a plunder charge they filed against him.

She said Bañez was looking for a private lawyer to defend him from the new charge, which was alleged to have been committed when he was in the private sector.

"The man is suffering for the good work he is doing," Ms Macapagal said.

"Let us pray that Rene Bañez will stay the course and keep working," she told the bishops and businessmen. *Christine Avendaño*

7 Arab 'tourists' barred

SEVEN Saudi Arabians were barred from entering the country yesterday after they failed to convince immigration officers they were simply tourists going to Mindanao.

Mindanao has gained international notoriety as the base of the Abu Sayyaf kidnap group following the abduction of foreign and local tourists.

Philippine officials have tightened watch at all entry ports following reports foreign terrorists were on their way to the country to aid and train Filipino Muslim guerrillas.

Immigration agents, unconvinced by the Arabs' claims they were merely tourists, booked them on the first flight back to Riyadh, Saudi Arabia.

"Their claim they were just going to visit Mindanao was very suspicious," said Leonardo Cabanting, assistant chief of the Bureau of Immigration at the Ninoy Aquino International Airport.

The Arabs, whose ages ranged from 28 to 35 and who claimed to be teachers, arrived from Riyadh at around 3:30 p.m. on board Saudia Airlines, immigration officer Rudy David said.

When interrogated, they could not say where in Mindanao they were going.

Deregulation not culprit in oil price hikes–DoE

BY RONNEL W. DOMINGO

ENERGY Secretary Vincent S. Perez yesterday appealed to consumers not to blame deregulation for the oil price increases, warning that a return to a regulated pricing regimen would only favor the oil companies.

Perez said the spokesperson of one oil company has admitted as much to him.

Pilipinas Shell Petroleum Corp. last week led off a new round of petroleum products price increases, raising its prices by an average of 37 centavos per liter.

The energy secretary explained the oil companies are guaranteed much higher profits in a regulated petroleum industry, depriving the consuming public of certain benefits from government.

According to data from the energy department, any government move to prevent oil price increases would directly lead to losses of funds that would otherwise go to basic public services.

A recent Department of Energy study showed that the government stood to lose P870 million a month from tax revenues, such as if the three-percent tariff on imported crude were to be lifted.

This is because the lifting of the tariff would mean a one-peso cut in taxes and duties on transport fuels.

The DoE said lifting the tariff would deprive the government of funds that could otherwise be used to build 16,000 housing units, or 2,000 classrooms, or 870 kilometers of roads.

"Deregulation is still a work in progress and we have yet to fully enjoy its benefits," Perez said.

He pointed out that the telecommunications industry was deregulated in 1994, but "it is only now that we are enjoying its full benefits."

The law deregulating the domestic downstream oil industry was enacted in February 1998.

The DoE said there are now 62 new oil firms, which together account for about 10 percent of the domestic market.

Perez argued that oil price increases were hardly unique to the Philippines.

"(Local oil prices) are still one of the lowest among countries in the Asia-Pacific," he said.

He added domestic oil prices were even lower than in Thailand, which is one of the more widely accepted models of successful deregulation in Southeast Asia.

Palace attackers set free

THE 147 pro-Estrada ralliers who were arrested during the May 1 siege of Malacañang have been set free.

The Department of Justice formally dropped the rebellion charges against them and released them from the custody of Pampanga Gov. Lito Lapid and the Department of Social Welfare and Development.

"'They were charged with rebellion, but after examining their participation and upon motion of their lawyers, the President agreed the cases should be dismissed," Justice Secretary Hernando Perez told reporters yesterday.

Perez said that while the ralliers admitted "they had joined the event, they claimed they were just swayed by the shouts of 'sugod, sugod' coming from their leaders."

The justice secretary said the government does not intend to file any other charges against those released.

"Of course, they were lectured and told to be law-abiding citizens," he said.

The ralliers were among thousands of mainly poor folk who had joined pro-Estrada demonstrations at the Edsa Shrine and later marched to Malacañang apparently to take it over and re-install the deposed leader into power.

The ralliers were represented by lawyer Persida Acosta.

Perez said, however, rebellion charges against the political leaders of the May 1 attack would be pursued by the government.

"They (ralliers) were not part of the scheme to overthrow the government, only the leaders," he said.

Former senators Ernesto Maceda and Juan Ponce Enrile are still facing charges of rebellion before local courts. *Alcuin Papa*

High-speed chase turns to drug bust

BY C. ESGUERRA

A SPEEDING incident turned into a drug bust yesterday.

Police recovered around P4-million worth of shabu (methamphetamine hydrochloride), from an alleged drug courier who met an accident while trying to flee from the law.

Supt. Nemesio Neron, Valenzuela police chief, identified the suspect as Cosain Macapintal, 23, a native of Marawi City and resident of Manila.

Police suspect that Macapintal works as a courier for a major drug syndicate, Neron said.

The suspect was driving along the North Luzon Expressway in a white Mitsubishi Lancer when he was flagged down for speeding by a patrol unit of the Philippine National Construction Company (PNCC) around 4 p.m.

Instead of pulling over, the suspect sped off, prompting PNCC officials to set up road blocks on the highway, radio operator Orly Lanuza said.

Upon reaching the Valenzuela exit, the suspect made a U-turn and drove back toward Bulacan, Lanuza said.

But when Macapintal tried to make another U-turn, his brand new car rammed into a brown Nissan California, according to investigators.

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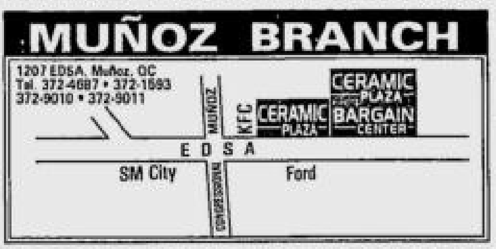

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OPINION

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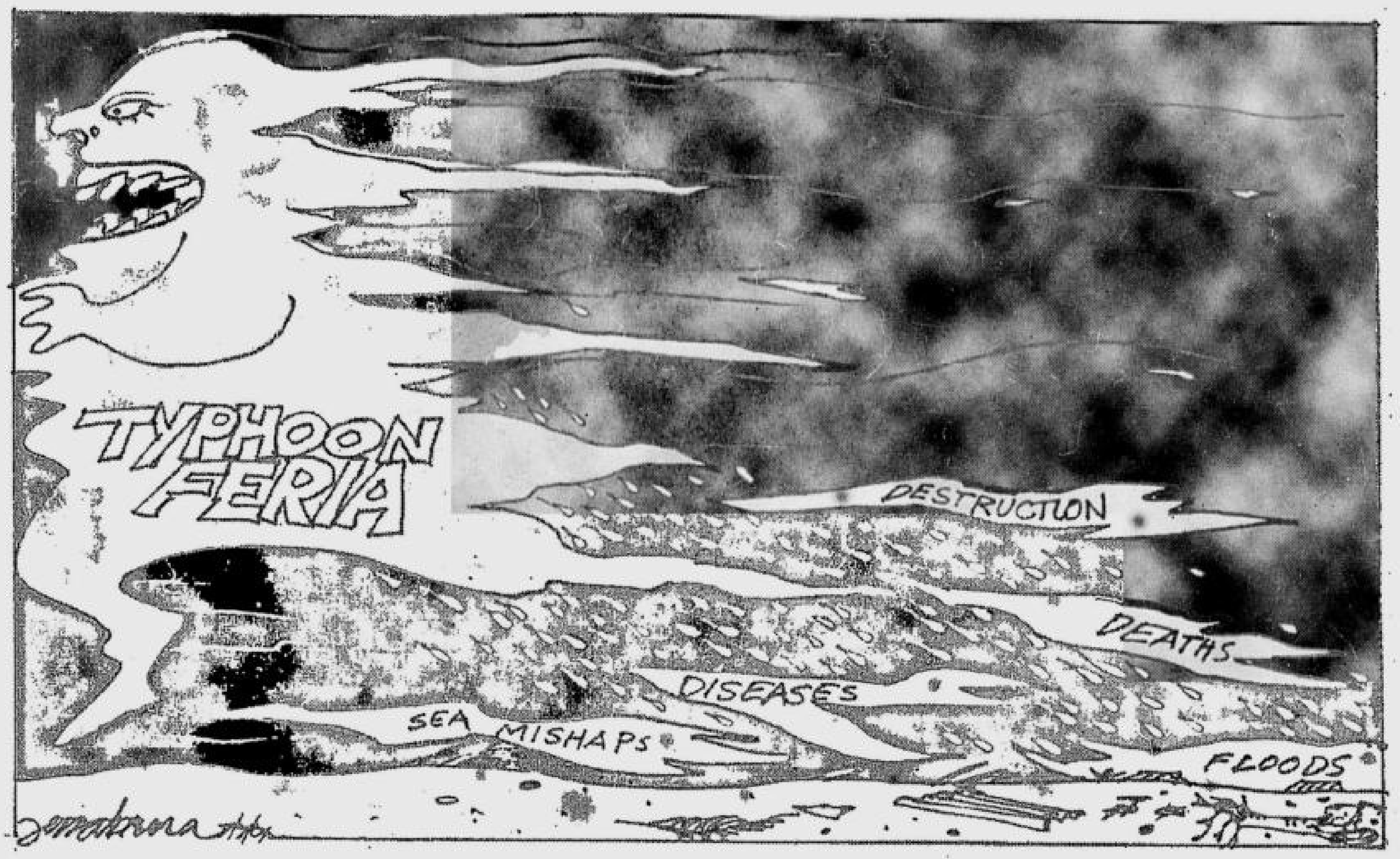


Timid

EDITORIAL

THE BUSINESS Confidence Index, a measure of local businesses' perception of economic and political conditions, dropped 18 points to 94.1 points in June, putting it below the 100-point benchmark. The index was, however, higher than the 70.5 points registered six months ago in December.

The latest BCI survey of local businesses was conducted on June 23-26, which is a political temperature reading of the first six months of the administration of President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo. It was taken in the midst of two unsettling developments: the rise of kidnappings and other crimes in Metro Manila and the Abu Sayyaf hostage-taking at the Dos Palmas Resort in Palawan. These events prompted business chambers and organizations to conclude that the law and order problem was responsible for this "confidence" plunge and gave them an opportunity to criticize the government for its incapacity to end the Abu Sayyaf crisis quickly and to stem the tide of urban criminality.

During the Estrada administration, the business community traced the low confidence rating to bad governance, corruption and incompetence in the management of the economy and of the country in general. Today, the culprit is different: a breakdown in law and order.

There is clearly a need for the government to step up its campaign to check criminality. But the business community also has this bad habit of always shifting blame to the government—whether it be Estrada's or Macapagal's—and away from its own failure to put money into the economy. The economy cannot expand and growth will not spurt without investments. The inflow of foreign investments has slowed, partly because of the economic recession in Japan and the major Western economies. If local businessmen are waiting for a turnaround in other economies before putting their money in new enterprises, we will never see any respectable growth that will create more jobs.

Local businessmen have the habit of looking for an ideal business environment before investing in the domestic economy. They are pampered, they are reluctant to take risks and they want to have things handed to them on a silver platter. Foreigners who get their information from TV tend to view the kidnappings as a nationwide phenomenon. Local businessmen should know better.

There are opportunities available for investment from domestic sources, with prospects of reasonable profits. With foreign investments slowing down, it becomes all the more important that local businessmen take the initiative to redeploy their resources to domestic economic opportunities instead of parking their money outside the country while waiting for better times to come. In fact, part of the reason for the deterioration of the dollar-peso exchange rate is the flight of local business capital.

The history of economic development in this country shows a heavy dependence on foreign investment, not domestic capital resources. This experience is unlike South Korea's, whose phenomenal economic growth was driven by domestic capital formation and did not depend too much on foreign loans and foreign capital. Our businessmen love to spend capital from other countries to spur domestic growth.

It has been said that in the Philippines the private sector is the engine of growth. This is true, but at the same time, the private sector depends too much on the government to create a favorable business environment. Today, the issue is no longer corruption and governance. But businessmen have found another issue—law and order—to draw attention away from the fact that they are not doing enough to explore opportunities for domestic investment.

Foreign capital sources tend to invest in stable home economies, and this explains why little capital is flowing to most parts of Asia, which is now plagued by political instability. If local businessmen pump more resources into the economy, instead of waiting for foreign capital to flow back, they would help stimulate growth and therefore create jobs and income that help calm social and political unrest. Domestic businesses have to put a stop to blaming the government for all the woes of this country. They know public resources for development and growth stimulation are pitifully low. They must do their part.

Thinking for ourselves

SEPARATE OPINION

Isagani A. Cruz

CLERK of Court Luzviminda D. Puno of the Supreme Court en banc, my *ahijada* when she married lawyer Reynato S. Puno during the '60s and when they renewed their marriage vows 25 years later, Rey being then already a member of the high tribunal, sent me a copy of the recent decision of the Supreme Court barring television coverage of the Estrada trials at the Sandiganbayan.

I read the decision immediately and learned that the majority opinion written by Justice Vitug was concurred in by seven other members, including Justices Kapunan and Sandoval-Gutierrez, who filed separate concurrences. Justice Puno submitted the principal dissent and was joined by five others, including the Chief Justice, with Justice Panganiban filing a separate dissent. One justice was on official leave.

What struck me upon reading the various opinions was not the merits of the contending factions but the way they all, except for Justice Panganiban, based their conclusions on the rulings of American courts on the issue. The majority opinion relied mainly on the case of Estes v. Texas, 381 US 532, which was the basis of the 1991 resolution of our Supreme Court barring television coverage of court proceedings. Not content with this, Justice Vitug cited nine other US cases in support of his conclusion affirming such resolution. Similarly, Justice Kapunan, in his separate opinion, invoked six US cases, and Justice Sandoval-Gutierrez mentioned all of eight such cases in hers.

Justice Puno, for his part, was no less assiduous in his research on American jurisprudence. He called attention to six cases, all decided in the good old USA reversing the old ruling in Estes and allowing television coverage of court trials subject to certain guidelines. The gist of his argument apparently was that even if we might have followed that old case 10 years ago in light of conditions then existing, we should now be guided by the change in the rulings of the US courts, which now allow television coverage of court trials under certain prescribed limitations.

All this invocation of American jurisprudence to support the pros and cons of the question before the Court smacks to me of "idolatrous reverence" for judicial precedents—and foreign precedents at that. As a member of the high tribunal years ago, I used to scoff at my colleagues who never missed the opportunity to cite US decisions to decide local issues best resolved in light of local conditions and sentiments. Perhaps they were sincerely influenced by such decisions ("brainwashed" might be the better term) or maybe they simply wanted to display their postgraduate diplomas. In either case, they were not, in my view, being realistic in ignoring our own native setting as a guide to our own conclusions.

We appreciate the assistance foreign decisions offer us, and not only from the United States but also from Spain and other countries from which we have derived some if not most of our own laws. I myself have occasionally cited them. But we should not place undue and fawning reliance upon the doctrines of other courts and regard them as indispensable mental crutches without which we cannot make our own decisions through the employment of our own endowments as a separate nation. We live in a different ambience and must decide our own problems in light of our own interests and needs, of our qualities and even idiosyncrasies as a people, and always with our own indigenous concept of law and justice.

The burden of the majority opinion is that we should do as the Americans do because they are correct citing the arguments raised in Estes v. Texas. The dissenting opinion argues along the same line and says that, conformably to the American cases that have reversed the Estes case, we should now also change our mind like a pupil obeying his teacher. In short, according to both the majority and dissenting opinions, the policy we should observe is follow the leader, the leader being the United States.

Stressing the judicial trend in the United States, Justice Puno observes that "forty-seven states now allow television coverage. Only three states ban cameras in the court room—New York, South Dakota and Mississippi." So how should that affect us? Should we also allow television coverage of trials in the Republic of the Philippines because of the example given by 47 states in Mother America? As there is trial by jury in the United States, should we also dutifully establish the jury system here? Must we always dance to the tempo of the US courts as if we were still an American colony?

The majority is not necessarily always right, even if the minority is not always wrong. It may be right although outnumbered; being outnumbered does not signify it is in error. Millions of people voted for many of our failed or unprincipled politicos, only to realize the folly of their foolish choices. In any event, courts do not decide constitutional issues by the number of precedents the parties may invoke against each other. This principle is especially significant in the case at bar, because the Supreme Court—our Supreme Court—is practically writing on a clean slate except for the 1965 case cited by the majority.

Having said all this, I venture my own opinion on the merits of the case and side with the dissenters. Subject to appropriate precautions to avoid the circus atmosphere feared by the majority, television coverage of the Estrada trials should be permitted to allow the greatest number of people direct access to the proceedings. Otherwise, they will get only second-hand information about them from the edited and possibly prejudiced reports of the print and broadcast media. Only a handful of privileged persons can be accommodated in the Sandiganbayan courtroom but millions of Filipinos can watch the trial on television.

Philippine culture and American culture are not identical. We have different outlooks in our laws and traditions. Americans place reverent value on the oath, but most Filipinos perjure themselves as a matter of course. What is sauce for the goose is not necessarily sauce for the gander.

Music and politics

COMMENTARY

Belinda A. Aquino

HONOLULU—The Fourth of July is the ultimate in American hoopla and exuberant display of patriotism. A good friend on the mainland stopped our telephone conversation the day before because he had to put up a flag to celebrate that glorious occasion the following morning. There's more fireworks than all the New Year's Eve celebrations you can remember, more picnics on the beach you can think of, and more polemics on what the American Revolution has meant more than two centuries after the British were expelled.

Music also took to the fore. A nearly whole-day Independence Day Celebration covered by National Public Radio featured "All American" songs by the country's greatest composers at the foot of the Lincoln Center in Washington, D.C. among other places. The music of Copeland, Gershwin, Bernstein and Sousa repeatedly played as America celebrated its 225th birthday. In fact the theme of the musical celebration was "Politics Takes a Holiday."

Composition after composition exalted the two major icons of American life: the flag and the White House. Sousa's "Stars and Stripes Forever" with its marching beat evokes among Americans the same fervor that we Filipinos feel when we hear "Bayan Ko." Actually, politics did not take a backseat on this day because Gershwin's "Of Thee I Sing" was part of the program. That musical piece satirizes American politics, particularly the infighting that takes place in the circles of power.

Yes, indeed, music and politics do mix occasionally. The week before in Honolulu, the UST Singers were in town to launch their 2001 Pacific Concert Tour. They were hosted by the Philippine Consulate. They're world-class and they have performed a total of seven international concert tours starting in 1993 under the expert baton of their director, Prof. Fidel Calalang Jr. "Tinig ng Pilipinas" was their repertoire and they were to present a mixture of the classics, spirituals, international and popular, as well as Filipino pieces, and excerpts from musicals. Being a musical illiterate, I didn't intend to attend, although I sometimes think of myself as an admirer of the arts. Also, since we do get a lot of Filipino choir groups in Hawaii, I've heard many of them in the past. But I'm glad I went because the UST Singers showed that the musical is also political.

After their "Filipiniana Suite" they went into the finale entitled "Pilipinas Kong Mahal." I thought it was just the usual number to the tune of "I Love My Own, My Native Land" to end the night. But all of a sudden, a member of the choir stepped forward, composed herself and began her speech, which began with, "With the recent ouster of a Philippine leader believed to have betrayed our nation's trust, with the rage of the public driven by demagogues crying 'foul' to the new government, with the heightened political tensions brought about by last month's interminable polls, with the depredations of an extremist group from the south who kidnapped and snatched a nation's peace, you hear and read about the troubled times the Philippines is going through."

I was astounded, as most in the audience were, because we were all unprepared for this "introduction" to the final number. But I thought this choir, and especially this member, was quite gutsy to politicize the evening. That took a lot of courage.

She went on to say that the choir's finale would be a medley of Filipino songs arranged by Calalang, which celebrates the spirit of patriotism, a distinct Filipino trait, she said, that had endeared our people in the freedom-loving world. "In this number," she continued, "we shall bring to you the plaintive lament of a people oppressed by poverty and exploitation, the burning desire for peace and freedom, as well as the option to draw blood but only as a last resort..."

I thought the impassioned political speech would never end. But it did on a high note: "Our culture, our traditions, our legacy that has been handed down to us by our forebears are treasures that we have fought for, that we shall forever fight for. This idea, we shall have to put in music." Of course, the inevitable "Bayan Ko" was part of this ardent breast-beating through music. Incredible!

As the medley ended, another choir member brandished and waved a Philippine flag to the audience's delight and standing ovation. On hindsight, the Filipino red-white-and-blue gave a good run for Sousa's stars-and-stripes-forever.

I congratulated this feisty choir member later, and she said her name was Lynnette Kristin "Jingbee" Mendez. She said part of the credit for her daring speech goes to her father, an RTC judge in Iriga, Albay. The speech was a product of two brains, she added, as her father gave her some lines and ideas before the choir's farewell concert in Manila. (Don't you think, Judge Mendez, wherever you are, that your daughter should have been a politician? She'd be a prize catch for the "new politics" that the current administration hopes to establish.)

If they weren't leaving the following morning, I would have asked Jingbee to come to my political science class to lecture on music and politics in the Philippines. Congratulations to her and the whole group for putting on such a knockout of a musical show. And for free at that!

Belinda A. Aquino is professor of Political Science and Asian Studies at the University of Hawaii at Manoa where she is also director of the Center for Philippine Studies.

GMA gaining approval among Erap supporters

POLITICAL TIDBITS

Belinda Olivares-Cunanan

MALAYA featured an interesting graph on its front page last Thursday showing the erratic movement of the peso over a four-year period, starting with the Asian financial crisis in July 1997. The graph showed the up and down movement of our currency as it responded to various crises in our national life. For instance, toward October 2000, with all the exposés hitting the Estrada administration, led by the Singson exposé, the peso skidded, reaching an all-time low of almost P56 to a dollar in January this year, at the height of the political instability. With the assumption of President Macapagal, the peso shot up to P47, buoyed up by the change. Now it's down again, pulled down by various crises such as the kidnappings by the Abu Sayyaf and criminal syndicates as well as the mistakes of the previous regime. There are also fears that artificially created demands on the peso are further draining the tight dollar supply, driving the exchange rate upward.

* * *

It should also be pointed out that the current weakening of the peso is very much related to the worldwide economic gloom afflicting the world's financial markets, and this is the big fear of the Asian region. For instance, Japan's economic experts warn that the world's No. 2 economy may have already lapsed into its fourth recession in a decade. Its gross domestic product contracted by 0.2 percent in the first quarter and they're expecting worse results in the second one. The US economy is also in bad shape, and in fact our major export, computer microchips, has been very much affected by the slackening in US imports.

* * *

Although the President's 57-percent approval rating (subtracting the 16-percent disapproval rating, she got a 41-percent net approval rating) in the June 15-26 Pulse Asia survey was not as high as her 63-percent net approval rating in March this year, the Palace has every reason to be happy about it. Not only did the survey show a big improvement over her April and May ratings and a gain in all the income classes, Ms Macapagal also posted the biggest increase in approval rating, 23 percentage points, among the lowest income bracket, class E, which has been a bastion of deposed President Estrada's support. And thirdly, her most impressive gains were registered in Mindanao (from 3 to 36 percent) and the National Capital Region (from 18 to 48 percent).

* * *

The Palace said the survey gains indicated that Ms Macapagal's pro-poor projects were paying off, and this is true. But to my mind, the 33-percent increase in support for Ms Macapagal in Mindanao is just as significant, for this means that she is slowly winning the battle for the hearts and minds of the people there. What makes Mindanao a special case is that with some exceptions, its Christian population, out of an intense feeling against the Moro secessionists, approved of Estrada's all-out war policy and the bombing of their camps. This approval was demonstrated in the last elections, when Christian Mindanao voted predominantly for Erap's Puwersa ng Masa.

* * *

For instance, Iligan, where Ms Macapagal grew up, voted 13-0 in favor of the PnM, and as Iligan Mayor Franklin Quijanao, a *kababata* of hers, explained to her, it was not a vote against her, but more like a reward for Erap for his war policy. General Santos, the bailiwick of Erap's allies, the Antoninos, gave a 12-1 vote to the PnM. The only area in Mindanao where the People Power Coalition won was in the Caraga region, and Ms Macapagal attributes this to the strong leadership of PPC leaders like Rep. Butch Pichay and the Barbers. Rep. Ace Barbers proudly told this columnist at Vice President Tito Guingona's birthday party that his district delivered an 8-4-1 vote for the PPC.

One month after the elections, Ms Macapagal has registered a significant increase in approval rating on the big island. Perhaps they are now seeing that the all-out war policy only dragged the island down especially in terms of economic development.

* * *

The record speaks for itself and Mindanao's leaders, both Christians and Muslims, cannot ignore them: the big island thrives far better in times of peace than in war. During the Ramos era, when peace negotiations were concluded with the MNLF and begun with the MILF, Mindanao registered growth rates that were far higher than the national rates, in fact the highest in the region. Ms Macapagal has discarded the all-out war policy of Erap and returned to the negotiating table; the result was the ceasefire agreement forged last month in Tripoli, Libya, between the government, led by Vice President Guingona, and the MILF. A major resolution born there is to develop former MILF camps as a joint socio-political and economic venture for Mindanaoans, to be undertaken by the government and former rebels with the assistance of key Muslim countries which support peace there. The other day a check for over $1 million was handed by the Saudi ambassador to the President for Mindanao's development. Next month she will visit Malaysia, which played a major role in bringing the MILF to the negotiating table, and which will soon host the second round of the peace talks.

* * *

I queried Bukidnon Rep. Miguel Zubiri about what could truly bring peace to Mindanao and unite the people, and he said that perhaps a mini-Marshal plan for the island could work. He stressed that it's still the poverty of rural Mindanaoans, both Christians and Muslims, that ought to be alleviated through more work opportunities and the delivery of basic services. On the other hand, presidential adviser for regional development Paul Dominguez, former President Ramos' point man in Mindanao, stresses that there is no substitute for selling the peace process at the grass-roots level, not as an imposition from the top. This is true, but the problem is that grass-roots education takes a while longer. Moreover, selling the fruits of the peace process has to be done by various sectors such as the Church, government and business in a more aggressive and creative way.

* * *

The Jesuit Communications and Jesuit Music Ministry is sponsoring a concert, "Pananagutan: A Lifetime of Music & Love," tonight and tomorrow evening at 7:30 p.m. at the UP Main Theater in Diliman. It will feature the well-loved Filipino Mass songs of Fr. Eddie Hontiveros, S.J., who is considered as the father of Filipino liturgical music. Father Honti has written hundreds of songs, including "Kahanga-hanga," "Sa Dapithapon," "Pananagutan" and "Paghahandog ng Sarili." He has inspired and influenced a number of younger Jesuit composers of songs of worship. The concert features the Manila Philharmonic Orchestra under the baton of Gerard Salonga, to be joined by Carol Banawa, Noel Cabangon, a 100-voice choir and Fr. Manoling Francisco. Tickets cost P100, P250, P500 and P1,000. For inquiries call 426-5971 or 426-6101 ext. 3425.

Language and intimacy

AT LARGE

Rina Jimenez-David

IN HIS autobiography, written 20 years ago, writer and educator Richard Rodriguez says his life story is necessarily "the history of my schooling." More specifically, his book, entitled "Hunger of Memory: The Education of Richard Rodriguez," is a book about language, about how language served to both help him assimilate into the American mainstream, and alienate him not just from his original language of Spanish, but from his family, especially his migrant parents.

"The boy, who first entered a classroom barely able to speak English, 20 years later concluded his studies in the stately quiet of the reading room in the British Museum. Thus with one sentence I can summarize my academic career. It will be harder to summarize what sort of life connects the boy to the man."

The slim volume that is his autobiography attempts such a summarization, a journey from the private world of intimacy he shared with his family to the public world of citizenship and belonging, accessed mainly through the adoption of English. But at what cost? As Rodriguez writes: "Once I spoke English with ease, I came to feel guilty. I felt that I had shattered the intimate bond that had once held the family close. This original sin against my family told whenever anyone addressed me in Spanish and I responded, confounded."

Is it language that defines family? Rodriguez says no, for intimacy has a language all its own. But how will intimacy be nurtured without intimate communication? And is it not parents, anxious to speed their children along into the mainstream, who accelerate the process of separation and distance?

* * *

MY father could speak English and Spanish and any number of regional languages, but could barely make do with Filipino (then called Tagalog). My mother was educated at the Philippine Normal School (now University) and she remembered being ridiculed by classmates for her fractured Tagalog.

Because my parents spent the early years of their marriage in my mother's hometown in Pangasinan, my older siblings' first language was Pangalatok. Thirty years ago, people were already saying that Pangalatok was a "dying language," at least in our part of Pangasinan, as we were being overrun by Ilocano migrants. People still say that today, in Pangalatok.

By the time my second sister and I were born, the family had migrated to Manila and was well on its way to middle-class ascendancy. About the first decision Mama made after moving into the big city was that starting with us (number five and six), Pangalatok would be banished from our home. She did not want us to acquire the notorious Pangalatok accent, which she felt would mark us as hicks. But, not being all that fluent in Tagalog, she chose to raise us with English.

I grew up with English as my first language. With time, I would learn Tagalog, from my siblings, the maids, classmates and TV. But between the younger batch of siblings and my parents, only English prevailed. I must have been about 12 or 13 before I felt I could speak to my parents in Tagalog. Before then, to use Tagalog with them would have been too familiar, if not somehow impolite.

* * *

THE REST of this story has to do with my attempts to overturn my mother's well-intentioned attempt at social mobility, her desire to ease our way through the long and difficult ascent to social acceptance.

I am sure she would not have understood why my husband and I made a conscious decision at the start of our marriage that any children we would have, we would raise in Filipino.

I am sure, too that she would regard with puzzlement my earnest attempts to speak in Filipino whenever asked to address a crowd or appear on the broadcast media. My husband laughs that to this day he can almost "hear" me thinking in English, even as my tongue stumbles to find the Filipino equivalent.

But, reading Rodriguez recount how, in adopting for his own the public language of his adopted land while abandoning the language that would have allowed for seamless intimacy with his parents, I cannot help wondering how much this linguistic whirligig had cost me and my parents. Would we have been much more intimate if we were able to talk to each other in Pangalatok?

Meeting an elderly Jesuit who is also a distant maternal relative, he chides me for not being able to hold up my end of a conversation in Pangalatok. I must say at this point that I can understand Pangalatok, as well as Ilocano, but my tongue stiffens (an irony, because Pangalatok is supposed give one a "stiff" tongue) when I try to form the words.

* * *

AND now we come upon the double, if not triple, dislocation of the next generation growing up abroad.

My sister's three children call the United States home, and they all understand Filipino. But while the two older ones speak it reasonably well, it is the youngest who must be prodded to use Filipino when Pinoy guests come to visit.

Reading Rodriguez, my nephew's face comes to view, the mix of resentment and embarrassment that washes over his features as he tries to say a few words in Filipino. Heartlessly, we laugh at his efforts and the twang in his Filipino. So it is with a twinge that I read Rodriguez tell the story of how his relatives would deride him, as he desperately tried to frame his thoughts with the right words in Spanish: "*Pocho!*" a word that means colorless or bland.

I cannot help wondering if Mama would not have, in her own fashion, been delighted by this grandson's American accent. As far as she would be concerned, I wager, it would be the ultimate vindication.

Implications of the Mehan Gardens issue

SENSE AND SENSIBILITY

Bambi L. Harper

IT appears to me patently unfair for some people to claim that the Mehan Gardens was neglected for well-nigh 20 years. Wasn't it just four or five years ago when then Mayor Fred Lim commissioned a monument to Andres Bonifacio for P15 million to commemorate the Centennial and had it installed in the area? To be frank, I'm not crazy about it, but the ex-mayor did have the place landscaped. If I remember correctly, the late unlamented Centennial Commission also put up a concrete structure symbolizing Mabini's *bahay kubo* or some such thing and again cleaned up the surroundings. So it's a little unfair to imply that Lim, with whom I had my usual disagreements, did zilch.

As a matter of fact, Lim to his credit did try to establish a city museum at the former Army & Navy Club building although it was obviously under-capitalized. Certainly it was something much more significant and worthy than another restaurant, which is what you've got now.

Shortly afterwards, the American Chamber of Commerce and US Ambassador Thomas Hubbard offered the collection of 25,000 books from the Jefferson Library that was closing, to the City of Manila. The proposal was that one wing of the building would house the donation and be a reading room for the students of Manila. The chamber would pay for the renovation. At the time I even proposed to Mayor Atienza the creation of a foundation that former Ambassador Juan Rocha was willing to head to maintain the library. Need I say more?

Obviously nothing happened and the books were finally donated (if I'm not mistaken) to a private college. As for the public school students, sorry *na lang kayo*. I have no idea why my fellow Filipinos keep believing this pro-poor line that Joseph Estrada's PR thought up and every other two-bit politician has taken up with alacrity. When are they going to realize that it's all vested interests and the next election?

In the meantime, the buzz seems to be that the conservators are as usual too late and they didn't give a hoot about the condition of the Mehan Gardens until Manila's wonderful mayor wanted to serve the poor by constructing this humongous building for their college. (By the way, does anybody know what the budget is and where it's coming from? And while we're at it, since the school is free, how much will it cost to run and again where will the money come from? You see the first president of that college, Ambeth Ocampo, quit. His reason, I understand, was that there was no money to run it properly. It would be interesting to find out why his successor quit, too.)

While I am amused by Manolo Quezon's observation that the preservationists in this country are notorious for losing all their causes (you have to admit it's kinda funny, if it weren't so sad for future generations). But I do not find it amusing in the least to have to tell government officials that they owe it to the poor, who do not live in subdivisions and thus have no gardens and parks, to maintain open spaces for their use. It is also the duty of the government to preserve and protect the heritage of the country which is why the destruction of the Jai-Alai Building was so obvious a symbol of just how much interest the government really has in preserving the Filipino heritage.

As for the Mehan Gardens, I was informed that another government agency, the National Historical Institute, could ask the courts to issue a temporary restraining order without having to post a bond, unlike an NGO. This agency, by the way, would like to have the architectural heritage of the country as its sole responsibility but if it cannot stop the disappearance of a historical site, how are we to trust it with the rest? It's the same agency that didn't protest the reclamation of Manila Bay on the grounds that it wasn't historical. See what I mean about the government?

No one to this date has answered (a) why the Jai-Alai Building had to be demolished when the money to build the Hall of Justice was not available yet, and (b) why can't the GSIS building behind City Hall be used for the City College? If they've got the hundreds of millions to put up a new building, surely that money would be more than enough to remodel the GSIS building? On the other hand, despite evidence to the contrary, maybe Manila is swimming in money and not garbage.

I would like to present a simple proposal based on the state of penury the Philippines and the rest of us appear to find ourselves in. Why can't the President declare a moratorium on the construction of new buildings, followed by a directive that old buildings should be remodeled and reused instead? This is, of course, only if it's true that we're broke since, given the lack of transparency, one never knows what's really going on.

As for the subject of government construction, haven't any of you wondered why we never have architectural or sculptural competitions in this country? One would have imagined that the young and talented should be given a chance, and yet everything is a negotiated deal. No wonder we're losing all the professionals.

Let me just say what I've been saying all along: Open your mouth and say your piece. You've kept quiet long enough, and look at the bloody mess we're in. And I don't mean the Mehan Gardens alone.

A margarita a day

I AM an overseas contract worker. I am not a nurse or some kind of medical personnel (the only items you will find inside my medicine cabinet are mouthwash and plaster). I am not a maid or, to be politically correct, a "housekeeper" (I haven't cleaned out my own room in months, and you could get lost in there if you are not careful). These jobs are honorable enough, but I just can't see myself doing a triple bypass, or making sure that the right amount of fabric softener is added to the final rinse.

YOUNGBLOOD

Jenny

*We want to know what the young are thinking about. What are their thoughts on current issues? We welcome contributions from the twentysomething and below.—**Ed.***

I was always good, though, at being the resident "*tanggera*" during parties with friends (don't pour more or less—that's the way to make the bottle of rum last all night), and dreamed of working in a glamorous bar somewhere. So when I was offered a job to work as a bartender overseas, I grabbed it. It beats sitting in your room, waiting for the next party to start, and the money pays the bills. Besides, the idea of being the female version of Tom Cruise in "Cocktail" was too good a chance to pass up.

And so here I am. For almost six years now, I have been blending, shaking, stirring and making cocktails and mixed drinks. You want a fancy drink, complete with the tiny umbrella? No problem, I can do it with my eyes blindfolded. I can even throw and juggle around some bottles for you, if I am in the mood. I can tell what's in a drink by just sniffing it. I can run the 100-meter dash while carrying a tray loaded with beer mugs without spilling a drop. I have read every book on the subject, and have mastered drinks like the "Flaming Lamborghini." I have attended training sessions and paid for courses on the subject. I have certificates galore. I consider myself a professional in this field.

But I would also like to think of myself as a part-time psychiatrist. People come up to the bar and start blabbing away about their problems. Marriage problems, money problems and of course, the all-time favorite, in-law problems—yes, sir, I have heard them all.

People come to me because I act exactly like your friendly, neighborhood shrink, and they don't even have to pay for the "sessions." Nothing to it really: you just glance at the "patient" once in a while, nod when you are supposed to nod, and say, "Yes I see," when it is appropriate.

I am really good at it now. Guests would come to order a drink and talk, and leave an hour later, pissed out of their skulls but happy with the thought that someone sympathetic (that's me) was willing to listen to them. And all I get after a night's work is a stiff neck from all that nodding. Sometimes I cannot even remember what the topic was all about. You know what they say, "In in one ear, out the other."

There are certain days, though, when I feel low myself. Being away from your country can be difficult. The greatest malady afflicting an overseas worker is homesickness. No Sunday lunch with family and friends, no hot *lugaw* when you are sick, no good night kiss from your kids.

The job itself can be very taxing. And it does not help the situation when your bar manager is the reincarnation of Hitler. You dare drop your washcloth for a cigarette break, and he'll make you sorry you were ever born.

Sometimes it seems too hard to go on working abroad, and there are days when I just want to pack up and go home. Working in a different country with a different culture can be maddening.

It is when a guest comes to me to talk about his headaches that I see my own life from a different perspective. When guests start the night's "spill-your-guts-out" session, I come to realize that, hey, these people have got it worse than I do. Suddenly my own problems seem trivial compared to the problems of these poor souls. Suddenly it occurs to me that being away from one's kin isn't the end of the world. With a little sacrifice and hard work, I can carry on. It is in times like these when I see that my life isn't so bad after all.

I highly recommend this to all who feel that their lives have hit rock bottom: Try listening to other people's problems once in a while. It will make you realize that your own problems are far from the worst. Listening to others has become a sort of therapy for me. Definitely it does wonders to my self-esteem. Compared to my favorite guest who tells me that his mother-in-law invents new ways of torturing him every day, my life is a walk in the park.

Jenny, 29, works in a five-star hotel in the Middle East, but most of her relatives think she is a bank manager there.

WHATEVER HAPPENED TO...?

Case against Sin

SERAFIN and Ruby Cheng filed charges of breach of contract with damages against Rev. Msgr. Ernesto Cruz of the St. Alphonsus Mary de Liguori Parish in Makati and Jaime Cardinal Sin. The case was filed with the Makati City Regional Trial Court on March 31, 2000.

In the complaint, the Chengs claimed that the parish was operating the Garden of the Risen Christ cemetery where the remains of persons in case of exhumation, or ashes in case of cremation, may be placed in exchange for money. Sin was included as a respondent because, as the archbishop of Manila, he has jurisdiction over the parish.

In their complaint, the couple said they had initially made a reservation for a niche and paid P1,000 as a reservation fee on April 20, 1996, when the cemetery was still under construction. They went back in the afternoon of the same day to pay the additional amount of P39,000. When they were told that three niches were available, they decided to get all three and issued a check amounting to P120,000. They were given a receipt with the heading "The Roman Catholic Archbishop of Manila" along with the name of the parish, and a "certificate of privilege" bearing the signature of Cruz and Sin.

Serafin Cheng visited the place in November 1999 and was surprised to see that the remains of another person were buried in one of the niches they had paid for. He demanded for an explanation from the administration of the parish but was simply ignored.

The couple consulted their lawyer and sent a letter to Cruz on Dec. 23, 1999. When they didn't get any reply, the lawyer sent a follow-up letter on Jan. 21, 2000. They still got no written reply, but were instead verbally offered a different niche.

They rejected it because it was far from the other niches. They asked for three adjoining niches like those they had paid for but the priest failed to comply with their demand. They then decided to file the complaint with the Makati RTC.

The civil case was raffled off to Branch 136 presided by Judge Jose Bautista. On April 6, 2000, he ordered all the defendants to appear in court. The respondents separately filed motions to dismiss in May 2000.

On Aug. 25, 2000, Bautista retired from the judiciary and the case was assigned to Judge Ricardo Rosario of Branch 66. On Dec. 1, 2000, Rosario denied the motions to dismiss filed by the defendants.

On Jan. 29, 2001, Judge Ignacio Capulong of Branch 134 took over the case. Then on March 12, he ordered both parties to meet with the mediator, Larry Dimagiba.

Case status: On May 11, 2001, Capulong issued a "judgment on compromise agreement." The complainants agreed to return the niches they paid for in exchange for four quarterly payments of P135,000 by the respondents beginning April 30, 2002.

Armin P. Adina, PDI Research Department

Poor need relief quickly

IN THE NAME of national security, President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo granted P10 billion to modernize the Armed Forces of the Philippines. This gift on the occasion of the Air Force's 54th anniversary was generously given at a time when the poor majority has to contend with chronic peso devaluation and the latest round of oil price increases by Shell and other oil giants. This anniversary gift was also granted while students and their parents were feeling the weight of another round of tuition hikes in both private and public schools.

By pledging to increase the salary of soldiers, the women and men in the military will definitely salute President Macapagal. Yes, she has impressed upon the military officials that speed is her motto. But we are greatly disappointed that the President has yet to prove her speed in granting the poor Filipino workers' demand for a P125 wage increase as well as the teachers' and other government employees' demand for long overdue increases in salaries and benefits.

Earlier, Ms Macapagal also proved her speed when she called for a special session to pass the Omnibus Power Reform Bill—virtually another anti-poor bill that will hand over a public utility to profit-hungry foreign and local monopolies.

As church people, we are concerned that her adherence to the policies of privatization, deregulation and liberalization will definitely translate into ever increasing cost of oil and oil products, water, electricity and local goods. Local agriculture and industries, if left without government subsidies and price controls, usually go bankrupt, close shop or get swallowed up by foreign and local monopolies.

We urge the President to demonstrate her speed when and where poor Filipinos urgently need it. If she sees that the poor are suffering from chronic price increases, why would she go slow in imposing oil price controls and immediately scrapping the oil deregulation law?

On July 23, the opening of Congress and the President's State of the Nation Address would be an occasion for President Macapagal to declare her administration's priority bills and medium-term economic development plan. On that day, church people will commune with the Filipino masses in a multi-sectoral rally to push for the people's agenda.

LETTERS

We believe that far more important than modernizing the military is speeding up the delivery of basic services like housing, education, health care and job security to the common Filipino people. As soon as she grants the demand for wage increase and much-needed price controls, church people and the Filipino masses will salute her like the soldiers and military officials did during the PAF anniversary.—**ROBERT DE CASTRO, secretary general, Promotion of Church People's Response, 3rd Floor, NCCP Bldg., 879 Edsa, Quezon City**

Eyesores being removed from Edsa

I SALUTE the Metropolitan Manila Development Authority for removing the advertising signs along the strip of the Metro Rail Transit Line 3 that extends from Taft Avenue in Pasay City to North Avenue in Quezon City.

If this wasn't done, it would soon have obscured the view of the MRT Line, become a hazard to motorists and could even cause road accidents.

The MMDA under Chair Benjamin Abalos seems to be taking steps to maintain the cleanliness and upkeep of our public infrastructure, including streets and highways, by controlling the proliferation of visual clutter in the major thoroughfares of Metro Manila, particularly Edsa.—**EIMA C. LORIO, 1391-D Corrigidor St., Guadalupe Nuevo, Makati City**

Iraq sees end of embargo

NEWS ANALYSIS

Farouk Choukri

BAGHDAD—The victory proclaimed by Iraq against US and British efforts to impose "smart" sanctions was seen here Wednesday as a step closer to scrapping an embargo that has crippled the once-powerful nation.

"Iraq will bury any new attempt" to maintain the embargo "through resistance and the support of its brotherly and friendly countries," boasted the Ath-Thawra newspaper, mouthpiece of the ruling Baath party in Baghdad.

President Saddam Hussein, meanwhile, paid tribute to "the honorable stand adopted by Russia in the face of the evil colonialist project."

Russia's objections to the US-backed British proposal for "smart" sanctions scuttled plans to unveil a retooled embargo. As a result, the 15-member UN Security Council voted unanimously on Tuesday to extend the oil-for-food program in Iraq for five months, backing away from a showdown over the sanctions reform.

"The US proposal has failed and all other hostile proposals will go the same way," said the government daily Al-Jumhuriya.

"The US administration must learn the consequences of this and reconsider its policy toward Iraq," warned Babel, another daily run by Saddam's elder son, Uday.

This first reversal for US President George W. Bush's Iraq policy comes at a time when not only Russia, a strong supporter of a lifting of sanctions, but Iraq's neighbors have rallied around the embargo-struck country. Prior to the Security Council vote, Iraq had warned neighboring countries of a cut in lucrative trade and oil links if they cooperated with smart sanctions. Egypt, Syria and Jordan duly informed UN Secretary General Kofi Annan of their opposition to the proposed revamp, a major blow to the Bush administration.

Just as galling is that more than 10 years after the 1991 Gulf War, most Arab countries have resumed contacts with Iraq, while Egypt, Syria and Tunisia have this year signed free-trade agreements.

Furthermore, dozens of Arab and European planes have landed in Baghdad since the reopening of the Saddam International Airport last August, despite the embargo, which Baghdad says is responsible for the deaths of 1.5 million Iraqis.

The governments of the United States, Britain and France will "try to fabricate another proposal to impose through scheming, blackmail and pressure," Ath-Thawra predicted.

"It is highly likely the United States will undertake a new measure against Iraq to confirm its domination over the world," a Western diplomat in Baghdad told AFP.

Acting US Ambassador to the United Nations James Cunningham vowed Tuesday to continue efforts to impose narrower, tighter sanctions on Iraq. "It is now apparent that agreement within the (Security) Council to change radically our approach to Iraq is not only desirable, but achievable," Cunningham said.

And US State Department spokesperson Richard Boucher said: "We think it's important also for Russia to consider its position and try to bring itself into line with what the other members of the council are doing."

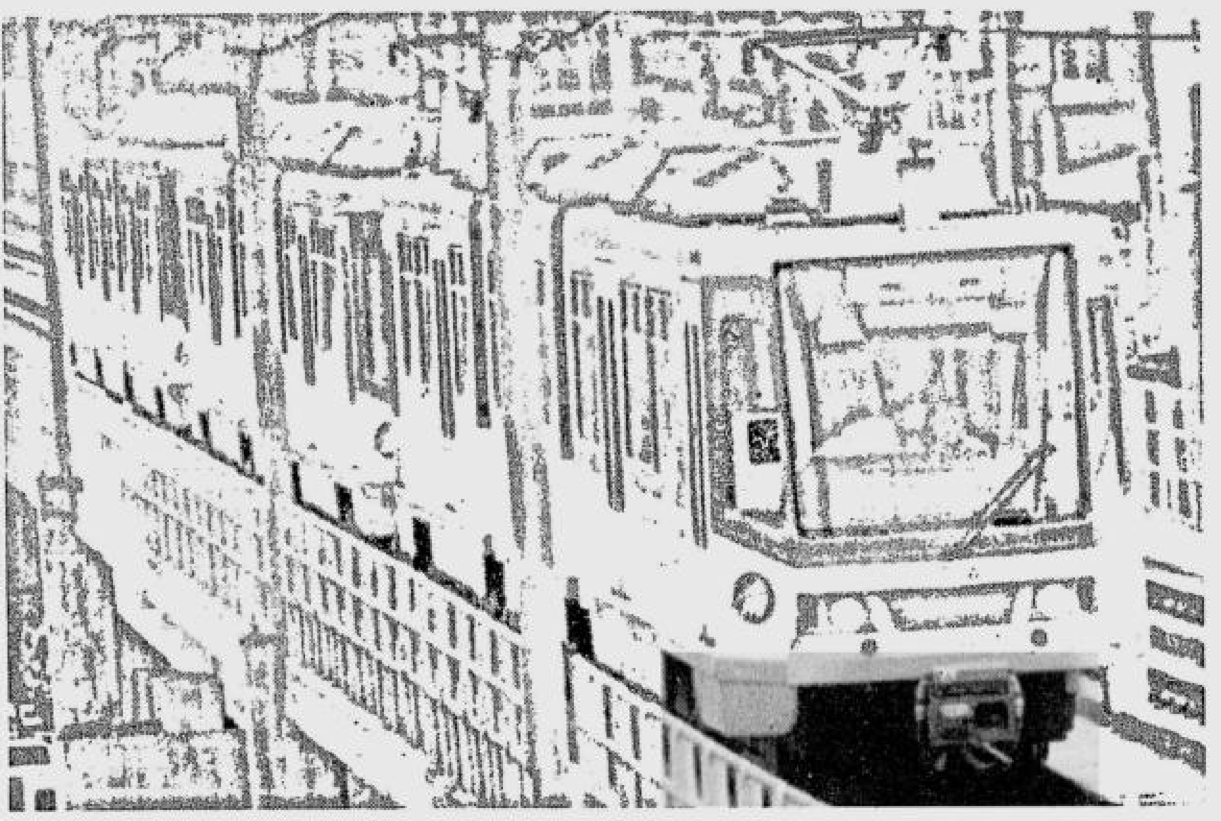
Iraq argues that a UN oil-for-food program launched in 1996 to allow Baghdad to export oil in exchange for food and other essentials such as medicine does not meet the 22 million population's most basic needs.

Baghdad cut off its crude exports on June 4, after the Security Council rolled over the program for just one month while it considered the new set of sanctions.

"The resolution adopted Tuesday by the UN Security Council is in line with Iraq's request to renew the oil-for-food humanitarian program," the diplomat posted in Baghdad told AFP.

But Iraq took its time to make an announcement on a renewal of exports.

Iraq's minister of state for foreign affairs, Naji Sabri, said "the new UN Security Council resolution is still being studied. We will announce our position according to our national interests." *AFP*



Discrimination based on work and descent

I WISH to bring attention the position taken by the government of India regarding the issue of caste-based discrimination at the various meetings held preparatory to the UN World Conference Against Racism, Racial Discrimination, Xenophobia and Related Intolerance (WCAR) to be held in South Africa in August 2001.

Untouchability, incomprehensible atrocities, denial of land and housing, rape and murder with impunity, restriction to the most dehumanizing and underpaid work and denial of basic education are serious forms of discrimination that characterize the condition of some 190 million Dalits in India and several more millions around South Asia and other parts of the world. The unjust and reprehensible treatment of the Dalits due to caste-based discriminations is well-known and well-documented.

In examining the periodic report of the Indian government (1996), the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination, the monitoring body of the implementation of the International Convention on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination noted that although constitutional provisions and legal texts exist to abolish untouchability and to protect the members of the scheduled castes and tribes and to protect them from abuses, widespread discrimination against them and the relative impunity of those who abuse them point to the limited effect of these measures.

In addition, the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination Against Women and the Committee on the Rights of the Child also note that the caste system presents an obstacle to the realization of the rights of women and those of children.

The CERD considers discrimination based on caste to be discrimination based on descent as defined in the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination. Similar discrimination based on social status can be seen not only in India but also in South Asia, Japan and parts of Africa.

Considering this reality, the UN sub-commission on the promotion and protection of human rights adopted a resolution on discrimination based on work and descent last August. To sum up the perspective of the UN human rights monitoring bodies, discrimination based on caste and related to descent and occupation against Dalits and various other marginalized communities constitutes a major violation of human rights and is therefore non-negotiable and not subject to question.

The issue of caste-based discrimination must not and cannot be excluded from the world conference.—**NELIA SANCHO, Asian Women Rights Council (AWHRC)-Manila office, awhrc_manila@yahoo.com**

Gesture of appreciation for traffic aide

THIS is in reference to a photo taken by Ernie Sarmiento and published in your newspaper last June 26. It was a picture of a traffic aide at the corner of Dapitan and A.H. Lacson Streets in the act of receiving something from a jeepney driver.

I am a faculty member at the University of Santo Tomas, and every day I walk through this intersection on my way to work. In fairness to the person involved, I'd like to share some of my observations.

This traffic aide has been at his post for some years now, if I'm not mistaken, since the time when dancing cops elsewhere in the metropolis were in the headlines. I have to admit that I'm not really sure if the person involved is indeed a traffic aide or if he is in the payroll of the Metropolitan Manila Development Authority for that matter. I have seen some jeepney drivers give him some coins, sometimes by just throwing them on the pavement.

In my opinion, jeepney drivers do so voluntarily as a sign of appreciation for the aide's work of facilitating the flow of traffic in the intersection. This isn't much different from donations drivers voluntarily give to barangay volunteers who man the railroad crossings at P. Margal Street or Maria Clara Street in Sampaloc.

So it would seem unfair to accuse the aide of receiving *tong* from drivers in return for allowing them to pick up and unload passengers at the intersection. His is a thankless job actually, and to appreciate that, one should try having Dapitan's morning pollution for breakfast without a mask. Besides, it would be asking too much from the aide to expect him to stand in the middle of the intersection directing traffic one moment and then run after erring drivers the next moment. Apprehending these violators has to be the job of another MMDA officer.

I'm just hoping that my perspective could balance the picture a bit.—**JOSE BERGANTIN, 1260 Craig St., Sampaloc, Manila**

Boorish SSS employee

LAST month, I tried to submit the Social Security System claim for death compensation on behalf of my mother for the death of my father, Salvador M. Cinco (SSS No. 07-0014748-2). I did this because my mother is an old and infirm woman suffering from various ailments:

In the SSS office in Bacolod City, the SSS claims processor told me to come back because, she said, I needed to submit my mother's special power of attorney empowering me to submit her claim. She further said that it would be a violation of the rules for somebody to submit a claim without the claimant's express authorization.

After producing the needed document, I came back in the third week of June and dealt with the same benefits processor. I expected that by this time she would accept the papers that I intended to resubmit.

I was wrong. This time she flatly refused to accept my mother's papers and insisted that the old woman do it herself.

Mind you, not only do I object to the unreasonableness of this requirement because it was duplicitous and arbitrary, I also resent her disdainful, high-handed and arrogant manner. Frankly, I was shocked that this particular SSS employee expected claimants to kowtow to her to get results.

It is very unfortunate that at this time when it is getting flak from several quarters for being mismanaged and milked by the vultures of our bureaucracy, the SSS has employees who insult its members.

I am not expecting special treatment, only simple courtesy and service. But if the SSS rank and file cannot practice these simple virtues, the management should take a long, hard look at its hiring and firing policy so that it can get rid of such boorish characters.—**JOLLY CINCO, c/o Bata National High School, Bacolod City**

Ilusorios had a 'normal marriage'

I READ with interest your article on my father's last will and testament in your July 1 issue. The contents of your report were generally correct, except for the following:

Firstly, it is not true that my father and my mother were at odds. My mother was always on my father's side and he with her. They were never separated or estranged because of some mistress, as the article claimed. During the time he was married to my mother, he always came home. To support this, I suggest that you read certain sections in my mother's book where she quoted verbatim my father's actual testimony before the Court of Appeals. He stated that he and my mother lived together for more than 50 years; that they had a normal marriage with the usual differences; and that he loved her and wanted to live with her. These statements are in the records of the Court of Appeals.

Secondly, it is not true that my mother jumped on the car during that *habeas corpus* hearing on March 23, 1999. The fact of the matter is, and this is again quoted in the book and fully supported by evidence, there was a prior agreement as a condition for not having my mother present in the court, that my mother and father will get together after the hearing. Unfortunately, my sisters and their many security guards rushed my father away and the driver of the getaway car was instructed to run us over if necessary. One of our family friends, Marilyn Tan, was seriously injured and she has filed a complaint before the Department of Justice.

Thirdly, my father's getting a court order restraining my mother from going nearer than 500 meters to him was absurd and that order has lapsed. My father was diagnosed with Alzheimer's in 1996 or five years ago. Copies of his medical reports are available in my mother's book.

Unfortunately, my father was not able to make decisions on his own. He was taken away by my two sisters and kept away from us for the last three years so that they could transfer to their personal accounts substantial conjugal assets without my parents' and certainly without my mother's consent. Again, this was also taken up in my mother's book, which I would appreciate you would take time to read fully in order to get a complete picture.

I hope the narration provides you with a clearer picture of the actual facts and events.—**MARIETTA K. ILUSORIO, Makati City**

Small part of Arroyo landholdings placed under CARP

THE FAMILY of Mike Arroyo has placed a small portion of its entire sugar haciendas under land reform. Placed under the Comprehensive Agrarian Reform Program were 571.36 hectares located in Negros Occidental. It is widely believed, however, that the Arroyos own thousands more of hectares of sugar haciendas in the towns of Isabela, Binalbagan and La Castillana.

The 571.36 hectares placed under CARP were those in the following Arroyo haciendas: Hacienda Bakan, Hacienda GG, Hacienda Alaja and Hacienda JMA (Jomari Arroyo). Moreover, these lands were placed under CARP as early as 1998, but the Arroyos refused to redistribute them quickly to the beneficiaries. It was only after Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo became President that the Arroyos decided to give way to the CARP process.

But only "at the right price"—and for them that means P250,000 per hectare. Based on various estimates made by financial institutions and agronomists, this price is too high. A UP Los Baños associate professor in agronomy places the correct price at not more than P60,000 per hectare, the land cost which the beneficiaries can afford to pay out of sugarcane production.

Unorka therefore protests the deception peddled by the President and the First Gentleman about the issue of land reform in the latter's estate. It is a deception comparable to then President Corazon Cojuangco-Aquino's "land reform" in the 6,400-hectare Hacienda Luisita and Joseph Estrada and Danding Cojuangco's scheme in the 4,000-hectare ECJ orchard.

Unorka has learned that farm workers in the other Arroyo haciendas are preparing for a series of militant actions like the occupation of the Arroyo estate to force the Arroyo family to subject their haciendas to land reform.—**ERIC CABAUIT, Pambansang Ugnayan ng mga Nagkakaisa at Nagsasariling Organisasyon sa Kanayunan, 262 15th Ave., Barangay Silangan, Cubao, Quezon City**

Past, present and future of RP football

WE usually say, "No one is indispensable." But this time, I have to disagree.

You see, my dear friend is "Mr. Football" to me and thousands of other kids whose lives he touched in Negros, where he learned the rudiments of the game and all over the country where he inspired so many to love the world's No. 1 sport.

He had only one dream outside of his own family: to elevate Filipino football to the same level with other Asian countries.

He believed in the Filipino booter. He wanted to remind all of us that our national team even beat Japan in the 1968 Tokyo Asian Games 1-0. And now Japan has not only qualified for the last 1998 World Cup in France but will also play host to next year's 2002 World Cup.

When Philippine Football Federation president Rene Adad called me one Tuesday morning with the shocking announcement about his untimely death, only one thing was on my mind for hours: Why? Why now, when he was at the peak of his life?

He was the only Filipino to reach the top echelon of the world's most powerful sports organization, the Federacion Internacionales de Futbol Asociaciones (Fifa), and he was flying high. For several years, he was match commissioner of several international games for the Asian Football Confederation and was assigned for one month in the last 1998 France World Cup for Fifa in St. Etienne.

The day before his death, he had just arrived home after being assigned for three weeks in South Korea by Fifa for the qualifying match for the 2002 World Cup in Japan/Korea.

He realized his dream at the age of 42 years and there was no stopping him.

He was a younger brother to me, having been his "roommate" for the past decade in several countries all over the world, both of us being members of the AFC and Fifa committees. We had so much fun.

He was everywhere—Davao, Dumaguete, Iloilo, Palawan, etc. and, of course, our beloved homeground, Negros Occidental.

Now, we do not know where to pick up the pieces. Or even where to start. We were all dependent on him. He was the past, present and future of Philippine football.

Why, Lord? Why now?

Two weeks ago, thousands trooped to pay tribute to a passionate football Hall of Famer, including the top Fifa officials from Malaysia, Japan, Indonesia, etc. Only then did I start getting the answers.

Maybe, it is only his death that can awaken and lift this country to greater heights in this wonderful sport. For sincere and loyal aficionados to devote more time and give a lot more for "his sake." This is the only way for others to show that Cris Monfort did not die in vain.

So long for now, Cris, my dear friend, brother and inspiration.—**REP. MONICO O. PUENTEVELLA**

IF you have any complaints, grievances or suggestions about the treatment of news and photos by the Inquirer, you may write to the Readers' Advocate, Philippine Daily Inquirer, Chino Roces Avenue, corner Yague and Mascardo Streets, City of Makati or send a fax to Nos. 897-4793, 897-4794, or e-mail readersadvocate@inquirer.com.ph

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GMA, Sin call divorce bill un-Filipino

(From page A1)

measure.

But the President urged lawmakers not to entertain the bill, saying that they should come up with measures to strengthen rather than weaken the institutions of marriage and family.

"The Filipino family is in danger because of the plan of a few to institutionalize divorce in the Philippines. This should be opposed," Ms Macapagal said.

"I believe we should resist divorce because it will weaken the Filipino family. It will enervate the home, it will erode society," she added.

"I believe we should protect the mandate of the Constitution on the sanctity of the family," she said, adding that the family is the central unit of society and "the basic source of our national bond and fraternity."

She also branded divorce "a threat to marriage that could still last, to a family that could still be saved."

Sin added: "The strength of the nation is in the family. Destroy the family by a bill like divorce and all the other values will come crumbling down. It only takes common sense to see this."

Divorce and poverty

The cardinal said divorce would "increase the number of poor people in our midst. Divorce will bring about more spiritually impoverished children because their spiritually impoverished parents do not like to keep their marital commitments."

Biazon said last week that his bill sought to amend the country's family code, which only allows legal separation and annulment. The law bars legally separated couples, but not annulled individuals, from remarrying.

"Our civil laws on marriage justify and allow separation of married couples under certain circumstances, but forestall both spouses from pursuing marital ties with others," Biazon said.

No to tithing

Sin issued a separate statement yesterday to oppose a proposal to implement voluntary tithing as a practice in Catholic parishes nationwide.

The Church should not even be talking about tithing at all while most Filipinos are wallowing in poverty, he said.

"Talking about it is irreverent when we consider how the poor are suffering," Sin said. "What the Church needs now is not more money but more determination to live like Christ."

He said he does "not favor obligatory tithing. I do not even favor discussing this issue at this time."

Sin's statement was in response to an announcement made last weekend by Msgr. Ding Coronel, spokesperson of the Catholic Bishops Conference of the Philippines. Coronel said that parishes would soon implement "voluntary" tithing, the practice of donating a tenth of one's income to a religious group.

Coronel made the statement during a meeting at the national convention of the Council of the Laity. Bishop Nicolas Mondejar of San Carlos, Negros Occidental, revived the topic. Mondejar first raised the issue of tithing during the Second Plenary Council of the Philippines in 1992.

Sin, however, said "all these debates about tithing are desecrating the Church of the poor."

Rich when poor

"It offends me because it hurts the poor," he said. "I am against it because it distracts us from the real vital issues."

"The Church was strongest not when the Church was richest, most powerful and most influential," Sin said.

He said the Church was richest when Francis of Assisi, Teresa of Jesus and Mother Teresa "taught us the power of being poor children of God."

"What the Church needs now is more piety not tithing. What the Church needs now is more simplicity not more debates. What the Church needs now is not more money but more determination to live like Christ," he said.

Coronel had been quoted as saying: "It's up to your conscience if you will give or not . . . The practice is biblical and we encourage the parishioners to do it especially if they have been blessed." *With a report from AFP*

ERNIE U. SARMIENTO

SOLID agreement between President Macapagal and Catholic bishops, Rev. Ramon Villena (at left) and Cardinal Vidal on the immorality of divorce.

Peso gains . . .

(From page A1)

overseas contract workers continued to hold on to their dollars in the hope that the peso would further weaken.

Following a doomsday scenario painted by some analysts, the market was expecting the peso to slide to P60 to $1, according to Buenaventura.

Buenaventura said the scenario was based on the unresolved peace-and-order problem.

A trader from a foreign bank said the BSP yesterday sold between $10 million and $15 million at the PDS. Transactions reached a modest $73.5 million compared with the previous day's $111.06 million.

"After its meeting with several bank treasurers last Thursday, it seems some of the guys took the BSP seriously and advised their clients not to hedge," said another trader, this time from a local bank.

Buenaventura and his deputies met with the treasurers of JP Morgan Chase, Citibank, Deutsche, HSBC and Standard Chartered Bank, and with representatives of the Bank of the Philippine Islands and the Metrobank Group.

The bank officials were told not to engage in any speculative activity that may put undue pressure on the peso.

"During this time of volatility, we wanted to remind them of their social responsibility. It was also to remind them that we are looking at their sales and their actions," Buenaventura said.

A year ago, the BSP issued a memorandum asking banks to submit details of any transactions worth $10,000 and above.

A stricter monitoring of transactions led to the investigation of more than 20 banks and foreign exchange corporations.

Buenaventura said the currency risk protection program was an option that oil companies and big importers could avail themselves of, instead of buying their future dollar requirements now.

"We told them why they were worried when the BSP could sell them forwards at P54.50 to $1 if they really believe the peso would hit P60," he said.

The currency risk protection is a mechanism that could mean gains to an oil firm if the peso continues to weaken. It could mean losses for the firms if the local currency recovers at a time of the bet's maturity.

The BSP chief said that based on the central bank's monitoring of the foreign exchange movement, it was corporate demand and lack of sellers that were pushing the peso down.

He said there were no signs of capital flight at this time unlike during the time of former President Joseph Estrada.

He was hoping that inflow from export earnings and overseas workers would start coming in aggressively so that the liquidity problem on the foreign exchange market could be solved.

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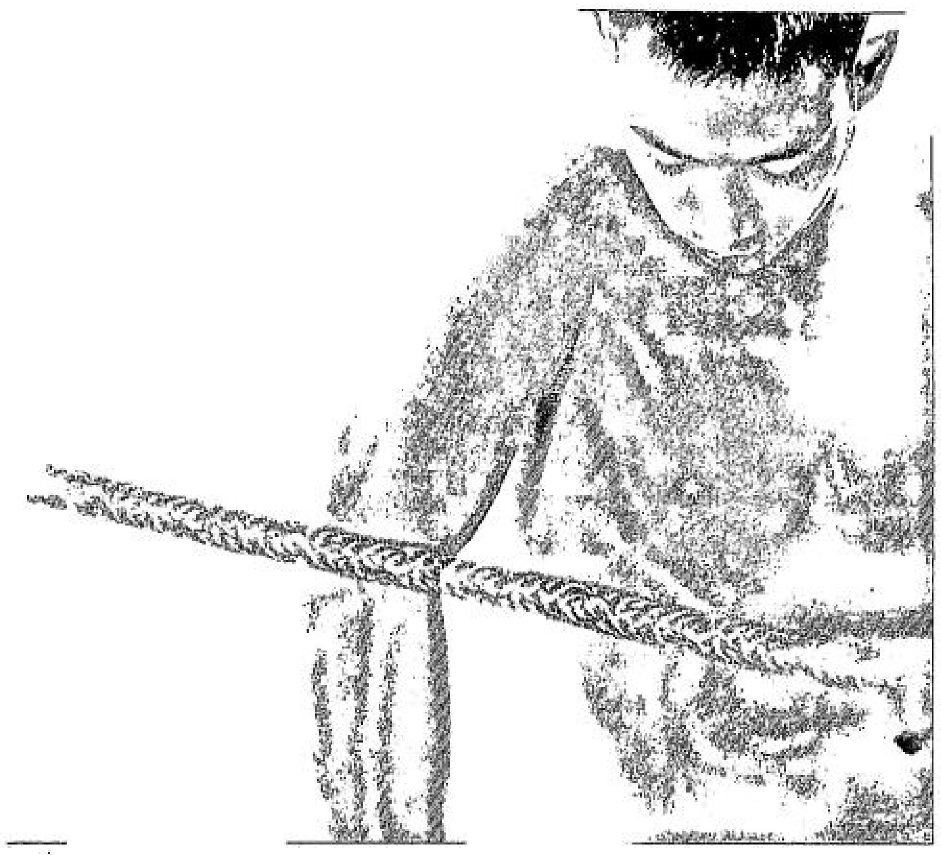

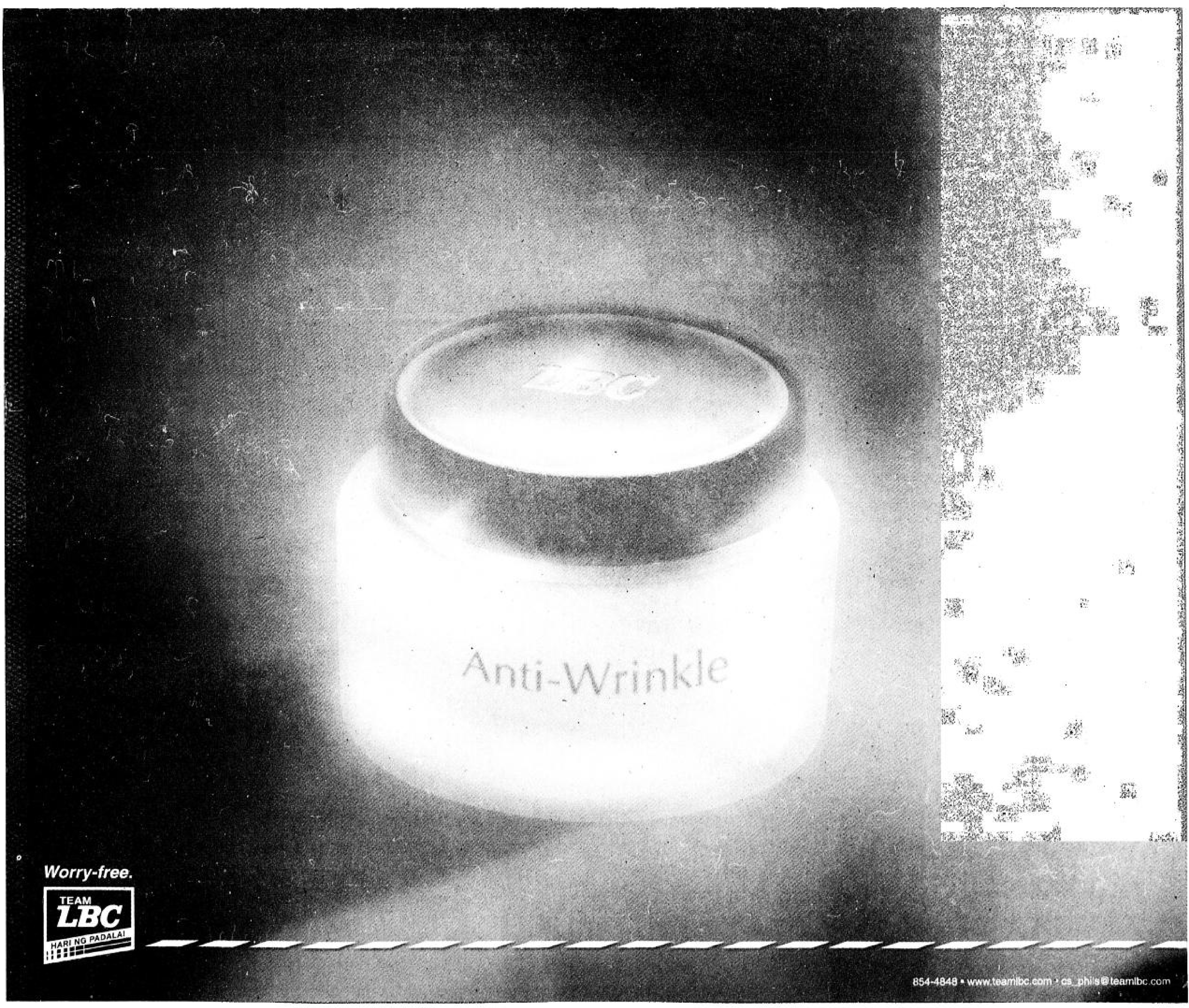

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The WORLD

Luverne B. Gueco, Editor

Okinawa rape may lead to revision of US forces pact

TOKYO—Japanese Foreign Minister Makiko Tanaka said yesterday Tokyo may revise a pact governing the presence of US forces in Japan after the alleged rape of a local woman in Okinawa by a US airman.

"To prevent such a crime from happening again, we must consider various options including revising the agreement," Tanaka told a news conference.

Under the Status of Forces Agreement, US commanders do not have to hand over servicemen suspected of crimes until they are indicted by Japanese prosecutors.

Tanaka said she had discussed revising the pact with US ambassador Howard Baker on Thursday and told him it was time for Washington and Tokyo "to respond to the feelings and sufferings endured by people in Okinawa."

Following the 1995 rape of a 12-year-old Okinawan girl by three US servicemen which prompted an outcry, Washington agreed to give "sympathetic consideration" to any request by Japan for an immediate handover of any personnel suspected of serious crimes such as rape or murder.

But Washington dragged its feet this week over handing over a US airman stationed at Kadena Air Base in Okinawa suspected of raping a Japanese woman on the island on Friday, a week ago.

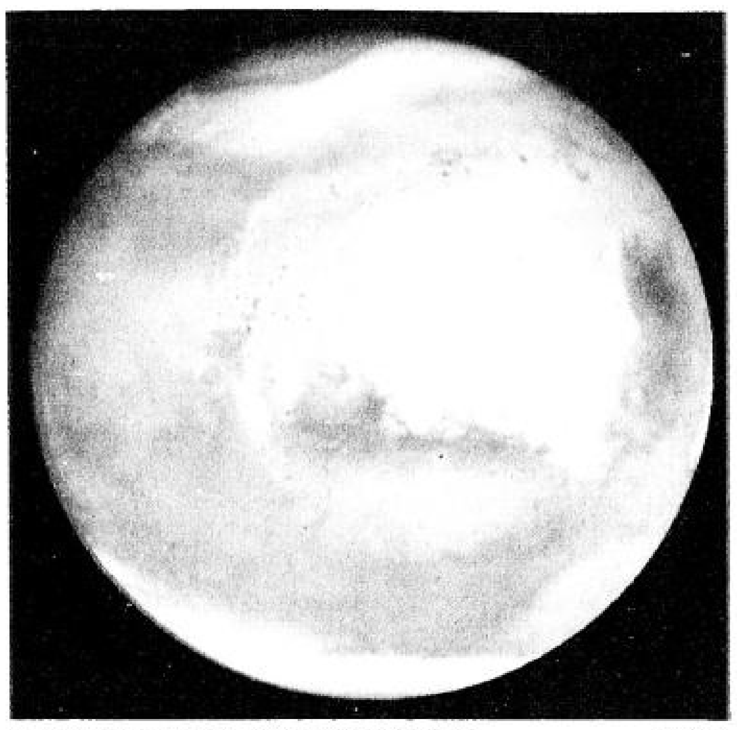
Okinawa police obtained an arrest warrant for the suspect identified as Staff Sergeant Timothy Woodland, 24, on Monday.

He has denied rape charges but reportedly admitted having consensual sex with the Okinawan woman, who is in her 20s.

Japan then asked the United States to hand over Woodland to Japanese authorities, but Washington only finally agreed to surrender him late Thursday, according to a report on the website of CBS television.

Baker was due to make an official statement later Friday after Toyko and Washington agreed the terms of the handover, the Japan Broadcasting Corp. (NHK) said.

Tanaka said some Japanese opposition lawmakers had asked her to press Washington to revise the military status agreement following the delay in handing over Woodland which stemmed from the terms of the serviceman's custody and prosecution which differ from American judicial practice. *AFP*



MARS UP CLOSE AND PERSONAL REUTERS

This image of Mars released by Nasa on July 5 shows frosty white ice clouds and swirling orange dust storms above a vivid rusty landscape that reveals Mars as a dynamic planet in this sharpest view ever obtained by an Earth-based telescope. Nasa's Earth-orbiting Hubble Space Telescope took the picture on June 26, when Mars was approximately 68 million km from Earth, the closest it has ever been to our planet since 1988.

'Utor' weakens in China

HONG KONG—The death toll from Typhoon Utor's ('Feria' in the Philippines) devastating sweep across the South China Sea rose above 50 yesterday but one of the worst storms in the region in 20 years appeared to be losing its sting after hitting land in China.

Authorities in Guangdong had put the whole province on alert and dispatched emergency teams to the cities of Shantou, Jieyang, Shanwei, Huizhou and Huilai to mobilize anti-flooding defenses.

There were however no immediate reports of any casualties and local authorities reported only minimal disruption yesterday.

The typhoon made landfall near Shanwei, about 110 km northeast of Hong Kong and immediately dissipated to a severe tropical storm.

But the toll of death and destruction left in its wake continued to mount.

At least 54 people were killed in the Philippines and another 13 were still unaccounted for, the government's civil defense office said.

More than 300,00 people have been displaced on the main island of Luzon as a result of widespread flooding.

At least one person was killed in Taiwan and seven fishermen were missing.

In Guangdong, city leaders were ordered to evacuate older urban areas as armed police, naval personnel and civilians raced to reinforce flood defenses and strengthen vulnerable dykes.

In the countryside people and livestock were evacuated to shelter, while farmers were trying to harvest what crops they could before the typhoon struck. *AFP*

Palestinians announce peace initiative

JERUSALEM—The Palestinian Cabinet announced on Thursday a political initiative—all of whose elements Israel has already rejected—marking the end of a week-long test period of calm which Israel said never began.

In a bloody backdrop to Prime Minister Ariel Sharon's first official visit to Europe, Israeli soldiers killed a Palestinian and critically wounded another in the West Bank in violence that put more strain on a fragile US-brokered ceasefire.

In Berlin, the first stop on a trip that also took Sharon to Paris, German Chancellor Gerhard Schroeder urged the right-wing Israeli leader to show "more flexibility" on Jewish settlements built on occupied land in the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

France called on Sharon to stop undermining Palestinian President Yasser Arafat, whom the Israeli leader has publicly branded "a murderer and a pathological liar," and compared with Saudi-born militant Osama bin Laden.

Sharon and Arafat accuse each other of failing to abide by the truce agreed three weeks ago as an intended step toward ending nine months of violence.

In what it described as a new political initiative to restore peace, the Palestinian Cabinet called for the immediate appointment of international observers for the West Bank and Gaza.

It also proposed that both sides make a commitment to implement a US-backed multi-tiered peace plan, sketched by a committee led by former US senator George Mitchell, as a single package within a short timeframe.

Israel has said it is opposed to foreign observers and wants the Mitchell plan implemented step-by-step and only after complete calm is restored with the Palestinians. *Reuters*

Human error seen behind Tu-154 crash

MOSCOW—The plane crash in Siberia earlier this week, which killed all 145 people on board was caused by "human error," media reports said yesterday as conflicting explanations for the disaster continued to emerge.

The first of the victims of the crash, Russia's worst aviation disaster in decades, was due to be buried on Friday while most relatives still faced the grim task of trying to identify the bodies.

Russia's RTR public television station claimed that analysis of the Tu-154 airliner's "black box" flight data recorders showed that its three engines had cut out, sending it hurtling to the ground.

But Interfax news agency, quoting an unidentified source close to the government commission into the crash, said human error was now investigators' main line of inquiry.

"Analysis of the black boxes from the aircraft has shown that until the moment the airliner hit the ground all the engines and the principal systems were working. . . We are not talking about equipment failure here," Interfax quoted the source as saying.

Deputy Prime Minister Ilya Klebanov, who heads the commission, has said he expects to be able to reveal the cause of the crash, which happened late Tuesday near Irkutsk in southern Siberia, by Monday.

It was the third major air disaster involving aircraft flying in or out of Irkutsk airport in the space of eight years, and one of dozens involving the Tu-154, the most frequently flown civil aircraft type in Russia. *AFP*

Amnesty: China executed 1,781 in 3 months

HONG KONG—China has executed 1,781 people in the past three months, more than the rest of the world has executed in the past three years, Amnesty International said yesterday.

The country has sentenced another 2,960 people to death since April, when its "Strike Hard" campaign against crime was launched, the global human rights watchdog said in a statement.

"More people were executed in China in the last three months than in the rest of the world for the last three years," it said.

These figures, based on public reports monitored by Amnesty, fell far below the actual number of death sentences and executions in China, the group added.

"Only a fraction of death sentences and executions carried out in China are publicly reported, with information selectively released by the relevant authorities.

"National statistics on the use of the death penalty remain a state secret,"

The group appealed to the Chinese government to "end its spiraling use of the death penalty and to replace this callous and counterproductive policy with more effective and humane criminal punishments, in line with global trends."

It said the "Strike Hard" campaign, like others before it, was unlikely to have a lasting impact on China's growing crime problem.

"The campaign is nothing short of an execution frenzy—a huge waste of human life," the organization said.

Executions had been recorded across the country for crimes as diverse as bribery, pimping, embezzlement, tax fraud, robbing of petrol and selling harmful foodstuffs, as well as violent crimes, it said.

Hundreds of people had also been executed for drug offences under the slogan "treasure life, reject drugs," it said, adding the spree of sentencing people to death had not been seen on this scale for many years. *AFP*

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Wahid again raises threat of state-of-emergency rule

JAKARTA—Head of state Abdurrahman Wahid yesterday again threatened to declare a state of emergency after his opponents cast doubts over his attempts to strike a compromise deal and save his presidency from impeachment.

Wahid said he would be compelled to invoke emergency rule if the national assembly proceeded with the impeachment process and insisted that he be made accountable to it during a special session to start Aug. 1.

"The country would be in danger and I, as president, would have to invoke a state of civil emergency," he said to a congregation at a Jakarta mosque.

Wahid, who is looking increasing politically isolated, has maintained that the special session is unconstitutional. And, he said yesterday he could not be forced to appear before it.

In recent weeks, the nearly blind Muslim cleric has repeatedly threatened to rule by emergency decree and dissolve Indonesia's parliament and national assembly, even though the security forces have said they will not enforce such a move.

In a fresh attempt to make peace with legislators who want to remove him from office, Wahid has called for talks with political party leaders on Saturday.

However, it was doubtful that the conference would go ahead.

Aides for Wahid's main rival, Vice President Megawati Sukarnoputri, who heads the largest single party in Parliament, said she would not take part.

They said she would instead be in neighboring Singapore for a medical checkup.

The leaders of other parties were noncommittal about their attendance.

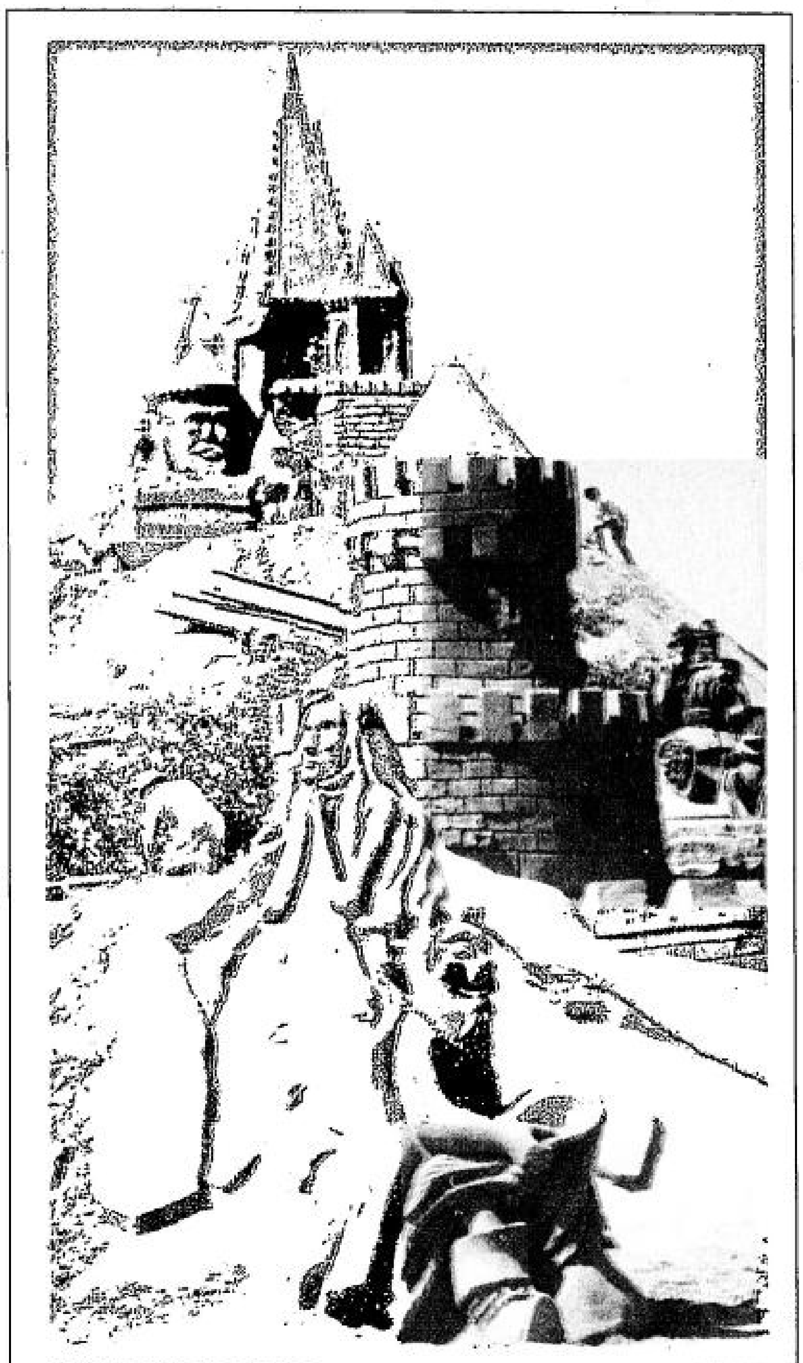
Foreign Minister Alwi Shihab, who is one of Wahid's closest aides, told reporters the talks could be delayed.

Megawati, the daughter of Indonesia's founding leader, Sukarno, stands to assume the presidency if Wahid is ousted.

Past attempts by Wahid to hold peace talks have repeatedly failed because of Megawati's noncooperation.

Megawati was in Central Kalimantan province, on the island of Borneo yesterday. She also skipped the state funeral in Jakarta of Attorney General Baharuddin Lopa, who died on Tuesday in Saudi Arabia.

Lopa's death is a major political setback for Wahid. Lopa, an anti-corruption crusader, had been investigating the affairs of several senior lawmakers who want the president removed from office. *AP*



WHAT IF IT RAINS? REUTERS

Workers prepare a world-record attempt to construct a 20-meter high sand sculpture at the Holland Sand Sculpture Park 2001 July 5 under the theme, "Fairy-tale Beach." Some 60 international sand sculpture builders are working at their Guinness world-record bid to complete the world's tallest sand sculpture at Almere in The Netherlands.

Allergy pushes Kohl's wife to kill herself

BERLIN—Hannelore Kohl, the wife who stood by Helmut Kohl during a long political career that peaked when he became German chancellor, committed suicide out of despair at a painful allergy that forced her to avoid daylight, Kohl's office said Thursday. She was 68.

The body was found just before noon Thursday by the wife of Kohl's chauffeur at the family's unassuming bungalow-style house in the western city of Ludwigshafen, authorities said.

Conservatively elegant and comfortable in the role of family woman, Kohl's wife was at his side during his 1982-98 tenure as chancellor—culminating with the heady days of German reunification in 1990—and a slush fund scandal that enveloped him afterward. The couple had been married since 1960, drawn together by a common love of tango. *AP*

Taiwan navy, air force beats China's in quality

TOKYO—China's military wins on quantity, but Taiwan's Navy and Air Force beats Beijing on quality, Japan said in a defense analysis released yesterday.

"China maintains an overwhelming force of arms," the Japanese Defense Agency said in a white paper monitoring the defense strength of its neighbors.

The country's Navy and Air Force "overpowers Taiwan in terms of quantity, but Taiwan has advantage in terms of quality," the paper said.

With 1.7 million troops, 770 ships—including 65 submarines—and 3,600 aircraft, China has the largest army in the world, said the report.

Beijing's defense budget for 2001 jumped 17 percent, its highest gain since 1996, noted Japan, adding that the figure marked a double-digit surge for the 13th consecutive year since 1989.

Taiwan is now reducing its troops to 400,000 from 470,000, with 340 military ships and 620 aircraft, it said.

"It is necessary to watch moves closely, including the modernization of military strength in both China and Taiwan as well as arms sales from the United States to Taiwan," the report advised.

North Korea was stepping up its military "despite economic difficulties," the paper said.

The Stalinist state is deploying mid-range missiles and mass-destruction arms while maintaining a large-scale special corps.

"Such moves have intensified military tension on the Korean peninsula and are regarded as gravely uncertain elements for security across East Asia, including Japan," it remarked.

Tokyo has been irked by North Korea's missile development since Pyongyang test-fired a ballistic missile over Japan and into the Pacific Ocean in August 1998. Japan and North Korea have no diplomatic relations.

Members of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (Asean) had cut defense budgets following the 1997 economic crisis in the region, said the official document. *AFP*

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Artificial heart patient on ventilator

LOUISVILLE, Kentucky—Dr. Robert Dowling's advice to the only person living with a self-contained artificial heart is simple: "Think positive and put your energy into healing."

Four days after Monday's groundbreaking surgery to implant the device, the patient was back on a ventilator but was awake and able to communicate with his family. The breathing tube became necessary again, not because of the heart, but because of preexisting medical problems, doctors said Thursday.

"This guy is incredibly sick," said Dowling, one of two University of Louisville surgeons who performed the operation at Louisville's Jewish Hospital. "If you had taken people this sick and taken their appendix out, some wouldn't have made it."

This patient, in his mid- to late-50s, suffers from diabetes, chronic renal and kidney failure and had had multiple heart attacks. To even qualify for the experimental surgery, he had to have been given an 80 percent chance of dying within 30 days.

All things considered, Thursday was uneventful, Dowling said.

"If he has five days in a row where nothing happened, that would be wonderful," the doctor said.

Dr. Laman Gray Jr., the other surgeon who performed the operation, said there was a chance the patient could live well beyond the 60 days that is the initial goal of the experimental surgery and even go home eventually. However, he said the additional stress of the operation has left him susceptible to lung problems, infection, stroke, liver and kidney failure.

Hospital officials have guarded the man's identity since news broke Tuesday that he had undergone the seven-hour procedure the day before.

Dowling said that since the surgery the man has been able to sit up periodically and communicate with nods and gestures about his status while on the breathing tube. When the breathing tube was out for about nine hours Wednesday, he was able to talk to his doctors and family. The heart itself is working well, Dowling said. *AP*

Elephantine task launched

NANYUKI, Kenya—Mzee is 42, headstrong and notorious for crashing through the electrified fence that surrounds a sprawling ranch in north central Kenya.

On Thursday, the 4.2-ton bull elephant stumbled out of a truck, shook off his stupor and flapped his ears, ambling free in his new, fenceless home following the most intensive elephant relocation effort to date in eastern Africa.

Richard Kosgey, whose small farm outside the ranch has been trampled more than once by elephants, was glad to see Mzee and the other pachyderms leave.

"We are very happy they are gone. They destroyed our crops every now and then, but luckily, no one has been injured in a long time."

The three-week process to move the 56 elephants from the 90-sq. km. private game sanctuary, Ol Pajeta, to the 900-sq. km. Meru National Park began Monday. The $150,000 effort underscores the problems the huge animals face—and pose—in a poor country of 29 million people.

Patrick Omondi, operations manager for the Kenya Wildlife Service, has been moving elephants around the East African nation since 1995.

Mzee, eight other bulls and seven elephant families were taken to Meru Park in an attempt to reduce the human-animal conflict in Laikipia district, where animals are regarded as huge pests, he said. *AP*

Across the NATION

TONY BERGONIA, Assistant Editor

2,000 Samar townsfolk block ballot transfer

BY JOEY A. GABIETA AND
CYNTHIA BORGUETA
PDI Visayas Bureau

TACLOBAN CITY—Tension gripped the town of Lapinig, Northern Samar, after some 2,000 residents occupied the town hall to block the transfer of 28 ballot boxes with close to 4,000 contested ballots to another town for counting.

Col. Rafael Romero, 803rd Infantry Battalion commander based in the capital town of Catarman, said the protesters were identified with reelected Mayor Ma. Luisa Menzon who expressed fears that the ballots might be tampered with while these are being brought to Laoang, about 30 kilometers from Lapinig.

He said about 50 soldiers and policemen had been deployed to the municipal hall to maintain peace and order.

The transfer of the ballot boxes stemmed from an order of Regional Trial Court Judge Jose Mejares of Branch 22 based in Laoang, who is handling the petition for recount filed by defeated mayoral candidate Sixto Espenesin Jr.

In his July 3 order, Mejares ordered municipal treasurer Loreta Lipata to bring the contested ballots and other needed election paraphernalia to his courtroom "for a possible recount" as sought by Espenesin.

Mejares also ordered Lipata to coordinate with the local police in the transport of the ballot boxes.

Menzon's supporters flocked to the municipal hall on July 4 and stayed on the ground floor upon learning that the ballots would be brought to Laoang.

"The ralliers seem ready to sacrifice their lives just to ensure that the ballot boxes will not be transferred from the building," said Romero.

The 28 ballot boxes were kept inside the Municipal Treasurer's Office, which had been padlocked on orders of Menzon.

The mayor expressed fears that Espenisen's supporters might attempt to seize the ballot boxes inside the building.

Espenesin (LP) filed a petition for a recount on May 24, accusing Menzon (Lakas-NUCD) of committing terrorism and fraud during the May 14 elections.

Based on Comelec results, Menzon defeated Espenesin by 1,607 votes. She received 2,916 votes while Espenesin, her former vice mayor, only got 1,309 votes.

Lapinig has more than 5,600 registered voters from the town's 14 barangays.

In his four-page petition, Espenesin accused Menzon of buying votes and engaging in terrorism during the May 14 elections, which, he claimed, had nullified the results of the elections.

In her 12-page reply to Espenesin's charges, Menzon denied that she cheated in the elections, saying the people gave her a fresh mandate because of her performance as mayor of Lapinig from 1998 to 2001.

BIR agent held for extortion

CEBU CITY—Graft and extortion charges were filed against an examiner of the Bureau of Internal Revenue who was arrested in an entrapment operation on Wednesday.

The National Bureau of Investigation filed the complaints against Jimmy Napoles of the BIR Cebu City south district at the Office of the Ombudsman-Visayas Thursday afternoon.

Napoles was caught receiving P3,000 in marked bills from Antonio Ruiz Jr. during an entrapment operation conducted by the NBI.

He was later found positive of ultraviolet powder that was used by the NBI to mark the bills. The fluorescent powder was also allegedly found on Napoles' shirt and pants, according to police.

Napoles denied he received P3,000 from Ruiz, saying Ruiz merely invited him to have snack. He said he would file charges against the NBI agents who arrested him.

Ruiz sought the NBI's assistance after Napoles allegedly demanded P10,000 from him in exchange for a reduction in the zonal value of a lot that he sold.

Acting on the complaint, the NBI agents conducted an entrapment operation against Napoles at the Jollibee Raintree Mall branch along Gen. Maxilom Avenue around 2:30 p.m. on Wednesday.

Arnel Pura, NBI special agent, said Napoles arrived 30 minutes late, got the marked money from Ruiz and placed all the bills in his pocket without counting these.

The NBI immediately pounced on Napoles. But on their way to the NBI office at the Capitol Site, Pura said Napoles threw the marked money near Fuente Osmeña. Of the P3,000, only P400 was recovered.

A security guard and a janitor working at the Robinson's Place near Fuente Osmeña Rotunda allegedly saw two taxi drivers take the other marked bills.

Pura appealed to the taxi drivers to return the marked bills to the NBI because the serial numbers were needed for the investigation of Napoles. ***Jolene Bolambot, PDI Visayas Bureau***

Nat'l Museum asks mayor to save cave

CAGAYAN DE ORO CITY—The National Museum has formally asked Mayor Vicente Emano to spare the Huluga Caves from destruction.

The caves, said to contain artifacts dating back to 1600 BC, and its adjoining open site are being threatened by a new road and bridge being built by the city government.

Local historians and anthropologists said the finds at Huluga Caves and the open site are the oldest in Mindanao.

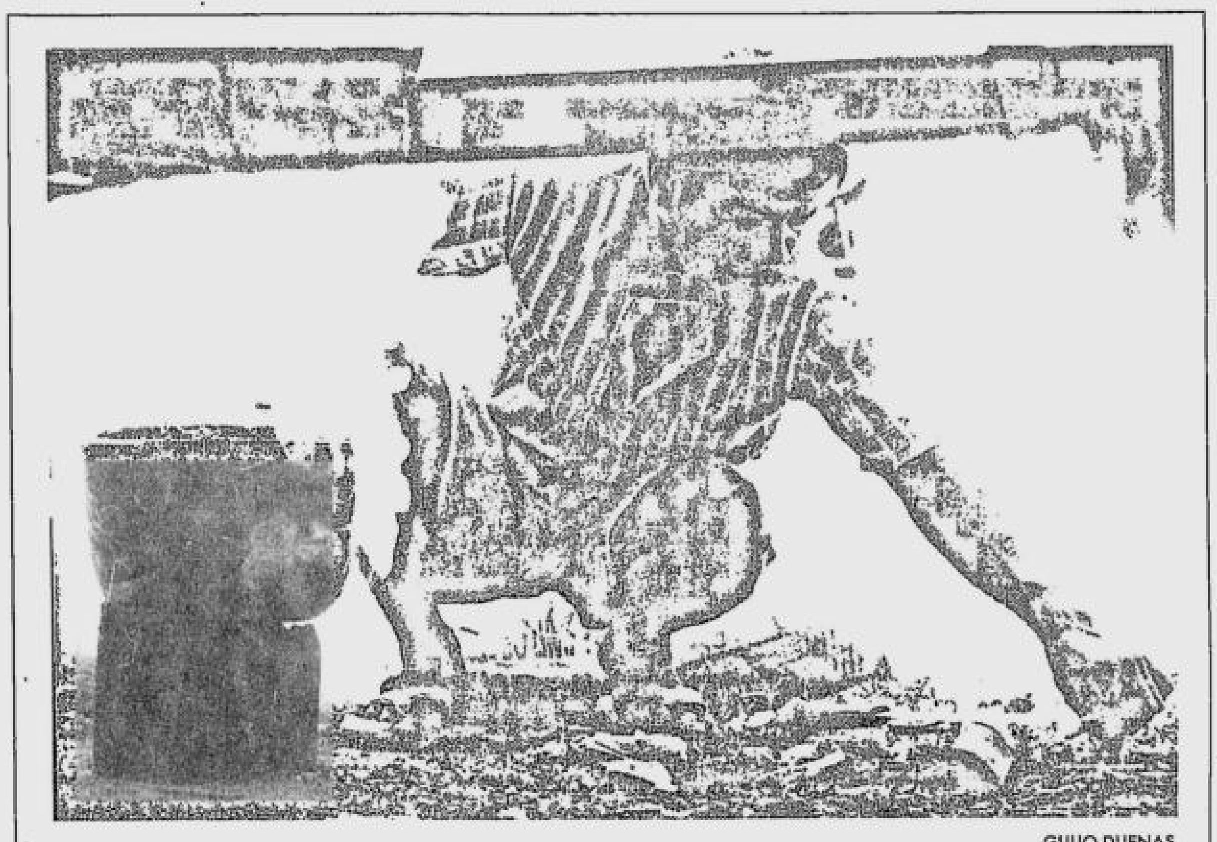
"The City of Cagayan de Oro is fortunate to have this irreplaceable archeological resource in its jurisdiction," said National Museum acting Executive Director Cecilio Salcedo in his letter to Emano on June 29.

Salcedo said during excavations made in 1979 and 1992, the caves and the open site yielded the skeleton of a woman that dates back to the Neolithic age.

Other finds also include stone tools from the Iron Age and ceramics from the Sung and Ming dynasties.

Luis Ostique, curator of the Xavier University Museum, said they want the city government to divert part of the proposed road to save the archaeological site.

He said they are also proposing that anthropology students led by Dr. Linda Burton closely supervise the construction to avoid damage to the site. ***Froilan Gallardo, PDI Mindanao Bureau***



GUIJO DUENAS

LUNCH TO GO

The need for mobility forces truck drivers and operators to be ready with meals to go like in the case of this lorry driver who cooks his meal under his truck in Iloilo City.

N. Vizcaya dangles watersheds in bid for lower power rates

BAYOMBONG, Nueva Vizcaya—Officials here are asking the National Power Corp. to grant power consumers in Nueva Vizcaya a reduction of power rates, saying the province's watersheds are the main sources of water for the firm's power plants.

Eduardo Tiongson, president of the provincial Association of Barangay Councils, aired the appeal to Napocor officials who attended a public forum last week on the charges imposed by the power firm.

The forum was conducted amid mounting complaints from consumers here over increasing charges in their power bills, including the controversial power purchase adjustment (PPA).

Tiongson said Nueva Vizcaya, as a water source for three of Napocor's hydroelectric power plants—Magat, Casecnan and Pantabangan—deserves to receive proceeds from the national wealth share.

"Any amount given (to the local government units) will be used not only for electrification projects, but more importantly, for environment programs intended to protect our watershed forests," he said.

While it does not host any of the Napocor's power generating plants, Nueva Vizcaya occupies more than 22,000 hectares of tropical forests that serve as a lifeblood for hydroelectric plants located in the neighboring provinces of Isabela and Nueva Ecija.

"What if our farmers abandon the (maintenance of watersheds) and never give it protection?" Tiongson asked.

Jin Miranda, Napocor account executive, clarified that even the newly enacted Republic Act 9136 or the Power Industry Reform Act affirms the right of host local governments to receive benefits from the use of its natural resources.

Miranda urged officials here to ask top Napocor officials the possibility of including the province in the list of recipients of shares in the national wealth.

The Local Government Code states that local government units are mandated to receive a share of 40 percent of the national income from taxes collected in the use and development of the national wealth within their territories.

At least 80 percent of the proceeds from the use and development of energy sources "shall be applied solely to lower the cost of electricity in the local government unit," the Code states.

During the forum, Napocor officials claimed that the PPA charges that the company has been imposing on electric cooperatives is spawned by rising costs of power production.

Miranda admitted, however, that Napocor's power generation capability is not used to the maximum because of low demand.

He said that while Napocor was reported to have posted some P180 billion in revenues last year, it remains to be debt-ridden.

"PPA will always be there whether we gain or not," he said. "We at Napocor as well as Nuvelco (Nueva Vizcaya Electric Cooperative) do not gain any profit from PPA."

Because of the PPA charges that Napocor passes on to its customers, power bills of common households increase by as much as 60 percent, on top of the basic cost of electricity used.

Nuvelco member-consumers have earlier demanded the filing of charges against the Napocor and the Energy Regulatory Board for their alleged connivance in imposing "unjust charges" on power consumers. ***Melvin Gascon, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau***

Young Mayon fan survives electrocution

LEGAZPI CITY—It was his first time to see Mayon volcano erupt on June 24, so 12-year-old Rosdal Catampongan rushed to the rooftop of his boarding house to have a better view of the eruption.

But his excitement changed to fear and uncertainty when he touched a live wire of the Albay Electric Cooperative (Aleco) that threw him to the ground.

Catampongan said his roommate tried to save him but they were both thrown to the ground.

A native of Burias, Claveria, Masbate, Catampongan was electrocuted at the height of Mayon's eruption.

He was rushed to the Bicol Regional Training and Teaching Hospital (BRTTH) here and was declared safe but his hands had to be cut off.

Doctors at the hospital said they had to cut off the boy's hand to be sure that Catampongan will live and be spared from infection.

At the hospital's Burn Unit, Catampongan has to take several kinds of medicines that cost P5,000 daily.

Catampongan's mother Rosa, a public school teacher of Claveria Central School in Claveria, Masbate, appealed to the public to help her with her son's medication.

She said her savings have been spent and that her salary is not enough to sustain her son's need for medicines. Her husband is jobless, she said.

Catampongan's appeal came eight days after First Spouse Mike Arroyo arrived here and helped some evacuees that were suffering from various ailments.

The visit, however, did not sit well with a group of evacuees from Mt. Pinatubo's lahar in Central Luzon.

The group said the Macapagal administration should do better than give charity to people who have been displaced from their homes and communities by natural calamities.

In Central Luzon's case, the group said President Macapagal should initiate programs that not only would give temporary relief to evacuees but long-term livelihood opportunities.

The Philippine Institute of Volcanology and Seismology has lowered the alert level around Mayon but warned residents of communities around the volcano to be on alert for lahar.

Millions of cubic meters of lahar had been deposited on the slopes of Mayon and Phivolcs officials expressed fears these would be washed down by heavy rains. ***Job Belen, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau***

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ROUNDUP

Killers identified

DAVAO CITY—Commission on Human Rights regional director Dominador Calamba II said guns-for-hire are behind the series of killings in Davao City and Digos City. He said the CHR has the identity of these individuals, whom he said are based in Agusan del Sur. Calamba also hit the police for filing half-baked charges against several suspects, adding these would not prosper. *Anthony S. Allada, PDI Mindanao Bureau*

Militiaman slain

DAVAO CITY—Suspected communist rebels on Saturday gunned down a ranking member of the Civilian Volunteers Organization in Barangay Malabang, Hagonoy, Davao del Sur. Alberto Estocaning was on his way home after fetching water from a nearby deep well when the suspects fired at him. Davao del Sur provincial police director Senior Supt. Guillermo Lara said Estocaning was "a hardliner" against the NPA. *Anthony S. Allada, PDI Mindanao Bureau*

Hunters' remains found

COTABATO CITY—Authorities here have recovered the remains of five iguana hunters who have been missing in the hinterlands of Datu Odin Sinsuat, Maguindanao since July 1. The bodies of Godofredo Gupong, 54, his sons Rolando, 39, Bryan, 12 and relatives Oliver Ramos and Eduardo Wesan, were found by fishermen, local leaders and police in separate areas along the Tamontaka River. Pilar Gupong, Godofredo's wife, said the bodies bore signs of torture. *Edwin O. Fernandez, PDI Mindanao Bureau*

MNLF man killed

COTABATO CITY—Gunmen who failed on their initial attempt at murder followed a wounded member of the Moro National Liberation Front inside a government-owned hospital where they finished him off. Tamano Adam, 39, of Talayan, Maguindanao, died of three more gunshot wounds after the two unidentified men who shot him earlier managed to sneak into the well-secured Cotabato Regional and Medical Center the other day. The armed men first tried to kill Adam on Saturday. *Edwin O. Fernandez, PDI Mindanao Bureau*

Measles outbreak over

CALAPAN CITY—The Provincial Health Office has declared the measles outbreak in Barangay Batangan, Bongabong town under control as no new cases of measles have been recorded in the last three weeks. Dr. Aristeo V. Baldos, Oriental Mindoro provincial health officer, said 23 persons, mostly Mangyan children, died in the latest measles outbreak in the last week of May in and around Batangan, some 120 kilometers south of this capital city. Baldos confirmed that many of the reported fatalities were never brought to the hospitals due to the Mangyans' belief that sickness is caused by evil spirits and that bringing the sick to hospitals would further anger the spirits. *Joel J. Jabal, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau*

Wescom chief relieved

PUERTO PRINCESA—Western Command Chief Rear Admiral Rodolfo Rabago was relieved from his post but denied this has anything to do with the Dos Palmas kidnapping. Rabago was criticized for his inefficiency in responding to the May 27 kidnapping. WesCom information officer Major Alex Asuncion said they had to verify the information first before pursuing the bandits. He also reasoned that the attack came as a surprise but there were allegations that the command's airplanes were empty of fuel so it took them time to refuel. *Jofelle P. Tesorio, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau*

HIGH SHIPPING COSTS

Repeal of Erap EO sought

DAVAO CITY—Mindanao businessmen urged the Macapagal administration to repeal Executive Order No. 59, which the businessmen blamed for excessive shipping costs of commodities coming from the region.

Unless the said order, issued by former President Joseph Estrada, is repealed, the Mindanao Business Council said Mindanao products would continue to be "uncompetitive in both the domestic and global markets."

EO 59 aims to modernize government ports through privatization.

It calls for the "unification" into one corporation of all seaport operators and service providers in each port managed by the Philippine Ports Authority.

It also bundled other port services into a unified corporation that has functions that include cargo handling, dredging, towing and stevedoring. The businessmen said the EO promotes monopoly.

However, Joji Ilagan-Bian, chair of the MBC, said the "monopolistic" effects of the law have been proven detrimental to the business sector of Mindanao.

"To ship our products, say corn and tuna, from General Santos to Manila, we have to pay port-related costs of about 35 to 50 percent of the total landing price. Other countries like China, Egypt, United States and Canada only charge logistics costs in the range of 8 to 25 percent for agricultural products," Bian said.

She said Mindanao businessmen are also against the law's provision on "negotiated contracts."

Bian said this means that "the operation, management and development of the ports will be awarded to the unified contractor without public bidding."

Bian said Mindanao businessmen would formalize their appeal to the government for the repeal of EO 59 during the 10th Mindanao Business Conference in August.

It will be presented to President Macapagal-Arroyo, who will be a guest at the conference, as a proposed policy agenda.

Also, the MBC will present an alternative proposal on the privatization of port operations, which includes the drafting of a new executive order with the following features:

- Build-Operate-Transfer (BOT) scheme which will serve as a framework to spur private sector involvement in port development.
- Competition in unbundled port activities.
- Menu of contractual arrangements for public-private port development.
- Competitive bidding, from the pre-qualification selection and awarding stages to the enforcement of the contract.
- The creation of a multi-sectoral monitoring and evaluation body.

Several seaports in Mindanao which are recommended by the MBC for privatization include the Macabalan Port in Cagayan de Oro, the Sasa Wharf in Davao City, the Makar Wharf in General Santos City, the Zamboanga Port and the Polloc Port in Cotabato. *Allan Nawal, PDI Mindanao Bureau*

Kidnapping suspect arrested

COTABATO CITY—The military here said the identities of the kidnappers of a Chinese national on June 24 in North Cotabato were finally established after the arrest of one of the suspects.

Major Julieto Ando, spokesperson of the Army's 6th Infantry Division, said one of the co-workers of kidnap victim Zhang Zhong Quiang, who was recently arrested, admitted he participated in the abduction.

Ando said the arrested suspect, whose identity he refused to reveal, also provided vital information on where Zhang is being kept.

Although Ando did not say whether the motive has been established, other sources said the suspect, along with three others, seized the Chinese national to force his firm to leave. *Edwin O. Fernandez, PDI Mindanao Bureau*

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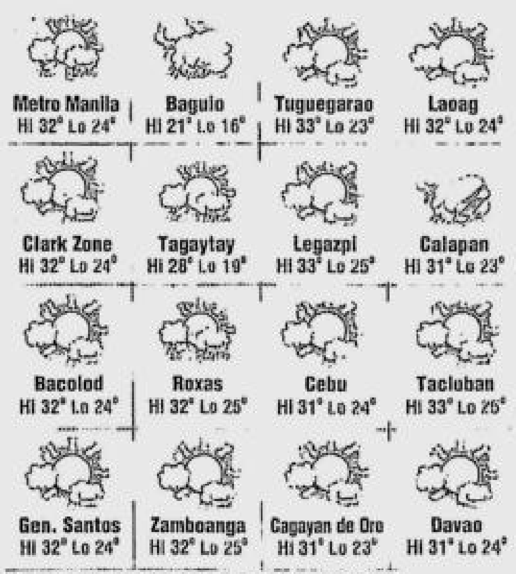
WEATHER FORECAST

FORECAST: Western Luzon will experience cloudy skies with scattered rainshowers and thunderstorms. The rest of the country will be partly cloudy to at times cloudy with isolated rainshowers or thunderstorms. SOURCE: PAGASA



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Bacolod Hi 32° Lo 24°	Roxas Hi 32° Lo 25°	Cebu Hi 31° Lo 24°	Tacloban Hi 33° Lo 25°
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Compiled by: Ray Loyesa, PDI Research/07/07/01

PDI BUREAUS

Northern Luzon Bureau
Central Luzon Desk
Room 201, Bonuan Apartelle
10 Happy Glen Loop,
Baguio City
Tel. No. (074) 443-9255
Fax No. (074) 443-8971
E-mail:
inq_baguio@inquirer.com.ph

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18-15 Escario St.,
Cebu City
Tel. Nos. (032) 233-0346 / 233-0349
Fax No. (032) 232-9938
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District, Legazpi City
Tel. No. (052) 820-8402
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INQUIRER Visayas
JUN BANDAYREL, Editor ■ EDRALYN L. BENEDICTO, Bureau Chief

‘Quasimodo’s’ search for a home

Sea turtles’ ordeal in the hands of men

By Alex Pal
Dumaguete City

QUASIMODO does not even know he has a name. Barely two weeks old, all he cares about is to swim and eat. Such is his world in the cement tank he would call home for the next few months, if he gets to live that long.

Quasimodo is a baby turtle, so named by scientists after the lead character in “The Hunchback of Notre Dame” because of a natural deformity. Among 93 other newly hatched Hawksbill turtles, Quasimodo is easy to spot because the others always gang up on him.

Not everyone, however, will have a chance to see Quasimodo and his siblings up close. “We’re limiting their exposure to humans,” explained Dr. Laurie Hutchison-Raymundo, a scientist at the Silliman University Marine Laboratory in Dumaguete City.

A group of scientists at the SU Marine Laboratory has started a campaign to offer the turtles up for adoption in a bid to help feed them until they are old enough to be released into the marine reserve on Apo Island.

The turtles were discovered by fishermen on the shores of Barangay Mag-abo in Dauin town as they emerged from their shells on June 9. Apparently in need of extra income, the fishermen first thought of selling the hatchlings.

However, one of the persons to whom the fishermen offered the hatchling told a friend who works at the Marine Lab about the baby turtles. Marine Lab personnel lost no time trying to convince the fishermen to turn over the turtles to the Lab.

Raymundo said there was an urgent need to protect the turtles because they would die if they are immediately released into the sea. “Out of one hundred turtles, only one will eventually survive because of many natural factors and because these turtles are excessively hunted almost to (the) point of extinction.”

Aside from threats from poachers hunting turtle eggs, Hawksbill turtles are also hunted for their shells. These are made into combs, jewelry and other ornaments.

Voracious eater

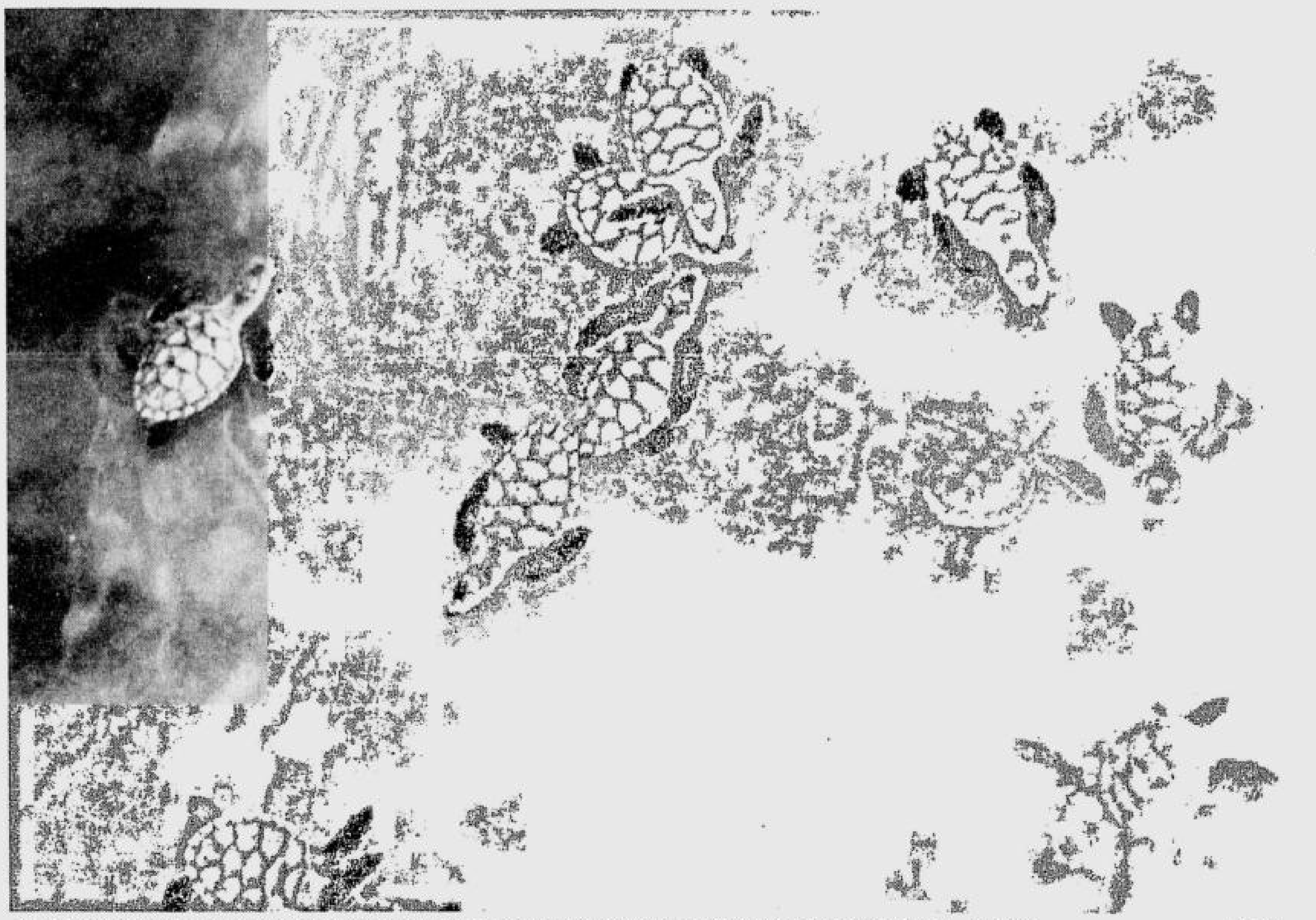
To adopt these turtles, anyone can donate money or fish to the Marine Lab. At their young age, the turtles can gobble up to three kilos of fish a week, which translates to roughly P180. The demand would be greater as the turtles grow older.

“They are so voracious, they eat almost anything. They even tried to bite the thermometer we used to measure the water temperature,” said Renclar Jadloc, a researcher.

Donors, however, may get only one chance to see the turtles and that is when the Lab opens its doors to visitors during University Centennial Founders’ Day in August, Raymundo said.

“It’s important to limit their exposure to humans so they will not grow to be dependent on humans. After they are released, they will have to look for their own food,” she said.

However, not everyone at the Lab is pleased over the turtles’ fate. The lone voice who wants the turtles released immediately is Dr. Angel C. Alcala, herpetologist and former environment secretary. Alcala, who now works as director of the SU Angelo King Center for Research and Environmental Management, said the turtles would die if they were not immediately released.


SO FAR from home, these hatchlings stay alive ironically with the help of the predator that threatens them most—humans. ALEX PAL

“The longer they stay under the care of humans, (the more) they become dependent and they will lose their instincts (for) gathering food,” Alcala told the INQUIRER.

Alcala said many studies have shown that feeding wild animals in captivity and releasing them back to the wild—a process called head starting—is inimical to the population of the species.

“They should look at the experts rather than reinvent the wheel.”

Outvoted

Alcala, however, was outvoted as the other scientists are convinced that keeping the turtles a little longer would help ensure their survival.

“We do grapple with the question of whether we manipulate nature or let it take its course,” said Raymundo, “but the hunting of these turtles by humans has already become part of the turtles’ natural threats. If there could be a guarantee that they won’t be hunted by humans, we can release them.”

The turtles have not only found a home at the SU Marine Lab, they also found a mother in a US Peace Corps Volunteer.

Chris Hoffman, a volunteer assigned to the SUML has agreed to take care of the turtles during her stint here, Raymundo said.

Hoffman, who is staying in Dumaguete for the next two years, hopes to develop a protocol, which would guide the Marine Lab in case it encounters hatchlings again in the future.

Raymundo gave assurances that there were success stories involving the rearing of turtles—for as long as eleven months—before releasing them into the wild. In this example, which took place in Texas, the turtles even came back to lay their eggs on the shore, which turtles were not known to do before, she said.

“The literature supports (the theory) that if you do this carefully, it could be successful,” Raymundo said. “There is hope for Quasimodo.”

But taking Alcala’s suggestions in mind, the other scientists at the Lab are stocking on other marine species that the turtles would encounter in their natural environment, like jellyfish, sponges and small fish. This should allow the turtles to practice hunting and train them to look for their own food, Raymundo said.

The SUML will coordinate with the DENR Task Force Pawikan to ensure that the turtles are properly cared for.

“After we release Quasimodo and the other turtles, there would be no way of knowing whether we were successful in our efforts, unless the turtles are continually monitored for a long time,” Raymundo said.

But should Quasimodo live long enough to be released back to the wild, the battle for survival may have already been half won, which could be a success story in itself.

The ban won’t work

BREAKAWAY

Ivan P. Suansing

MAYOR Tomas Osmeña needs to know why he should lift the City Hall ban on reporters of Sun*Star Daily, the “propaganda machine” of Alvin Garcia’s family.

Here’s one cogent reason: It won’t work.

No major scoop has ever come out of the mayor’s office, or from the mayor’s mouth. Reporters often dig deep on their own to discover the money trail to another stinking deal, which officials would rather bury for good.

If Sun*Star stumbles on an anomaly and reports about it, Tommy will have to forfeit his right to air his side in that paper.

Instead of hurting the paper, the ban will only promote it. When former President Estrada launched a vicious campaign to destroy the INQUIRER, he only succeeded in making the PDI readership grow.

Sun*Star can also feed off public sympathy, play the underdog role to the hilt to boost its stock.

But the most important reason is that the local media will not watch idly as Tom toys with a sacred freedom that transcends the daily struggle for exclusive stories and newsstand dominance.

The issue of press freedom has brought together media organizations in Cebu, including direct competitors that rightly view a threat to an individual outfit as a threat to all.

If Tom can get away with this one, what will prevent him from discriminating against, say Cebu Daily News, when he realizes he can’t handle that paper’s adversarial approach?

His reason for banning another media organization, radio station dyHP, seems petty. The station aired a one-hour interview with Alvin Garcia before the last elections and its manager happens to be the wife of a Garcia ally.

In the early 1990s, Tom also declared the mayor’s office off-limits to Bombo reporters, well known here as in elsewhere for their take-no-prisoner style of radio reporting.

This is a dangerous trend that has to be stopped before it claims its next victim.

* * *

Editorialize the Cebu Daily News yesterday:

Less than a week into his latest term, Cebu City Mayor Tomas Osmeña chalked up his first mistake, a dubious ban on reporters of Sun*Star Daily, the tabloid owned by the Garcia family.

Last Tuesday, Osmeña shooed away two SSD reporters from his first press conference. “Sorry, no Sun*Star,” he said. “I already made that clear before.”

Did the mayor only want to stress a caveat? “Sun*Star is a political propaganda machine in disguise, and therefore the public must be wary of it.” If so, the message was delivered.

It appears, however, that Osmeña wants nothing less than complete revenge against the owners of the paper that just recently made him appear really bad. If so, then he’s striking back the wrong way.

If Tommy feels his reputation was unduly maligned, his recourse is to seek vindication in a court of law by filing a case for libel or damages. It’s up to the judge to rule whether he has a valid cause of action.

By discriminating against Sun*Star and radio station dyHP, another “biased” media outfit, Mayor Osmeña has reaffirmed his intolerance of the critical press. Those who remember how he turned Bombo reporters into virtual City Hall outcasts know this wasn’t the first time he took it upon himself to “punish” a media organization.

The mayor must realize that the elections are over—he won despite everything that was thrown at him by his rival. He must keep the door open for a possible reconciliation with political enemies, including their newspaper.

Osmeña believes that Sun*Star continues to have a political agenda after Alvin’s defeat. He quotes a line from Garcia’s concession speech: “I will not fade into the sunset.”

He expects Alvin to rebound, and with his paper’s all-out support, try to recapture City Hall in 2004.

While the paper has momentarily stopped its attack against him, he believes “it will be fully activated again in time for the next elections.”

Tomas’ fears may not be unfounded, but as his own experience shows, black propaganda is still no match for a good candidate. His fears, however, hardly justify a clampdown on Sun*Star and radio station dyHP.

Cebu Daily News opposes the City Hall ban on these media entities, an affront to press freedom, which includes the right to have access to information. Any assault, of whatever form and for whatever reason, on a newspaper or broadcast organization will be deemed an assault on the whole media institution.

Osmeña still has a chance to emerge from this controversy looking more like a statesman than just another vindictive leader—by proving he can be fair to a media outfit even if it can “never be fair” to him.

A piece of Memphis in Cebu

By Gerald Pareja
Cebu City

RETRO bars and nostalgia cafés have come and gone in uptown Cebu City. So for staying power, this downtown shrine of the king of Rock n’ Roll ought to be cited.

It has been around since 1978 and is still going strong despite the fact that hardly anybody knows it exists.

Part of its obscurity has to do with its location. It is in the lounge of the balcony of an old movie house, Cinema Theater, in the country’s oldest street, Colon. Add to the location the fact that nobody likes to linger here as no refreshments are served in the area.

But this cultural curiosity is quite a candy for the eyes of people (especially those who romanticize the 1950s or idolize Elvis Presly) who loiter in its lobby long enough to see what makes it different.

There’s Elvis backstage, kissing a fan or Elvis in a Hawaiian polo with a ukulele. There’s Elvis in a leather jacket with an electric guitar and another with a military haircut. There’s Elvis sporting a beard and donning a cowboy hat.

In fact there are about 200 promotional movie stills of Elvis’ short-take, low-budget blockbusters. Jailhouse Rock. Blue Hawaii. GI Blues. Viva Las Vegas. Name it and most likely it’s in this lobby.

All these are part of the collection of the theater’s manager, Vic Alvarez, an Elvis fan and close friend of Amalia Fuentes and the Muhlach clan who relocated himself here in the 1970s.

When he ran out of space for his Elvis memorabilia in his residence, he decided to display them in the theater’s balcony lounge. Many foreigners have had their pictures taken in front of this shrine and had complemented him for it. All too pleased, perhaps, of finding a piece of Memphis in Cebu. But the locals, who are more inclined to go to the malls, are often surprised to find that this place exists.

Aside from the movie stills, Alvarez’s collection includes fantasy posters depicting Elvis either with his fellow 1950s icons, Marilyn Monroe and James Dean, or with fellow rockers The Beatles and Prince. New Calendar pages, too, are framed and mounted beside the stills.

Of course it wouldn’t be a shrine if there were no big red candles. And to be consistent with its retro glamour concept, big sofas and a large mirror compliment the lounge. The johns are fancifully labeled Best Actor and Best Actress.

Now if Alvarez could add a bar (non-alcoholic), a slot machine (a fake one) and a jukebox (a real one), who knows? This place might even be reported in the National Enquirer for yet another Elvis sighting.

A SHRINE for the King in a little known corner of Cebu. GERALD PAREJA

Cebu mayor bans media . . .

(From page A1)

Alido-Campaña, to leave his office or else the press conference would not start.

The two embarrassed reporters slowly walked out from the mayor's office.

The ban, Osmeña said, is a political statement on the political agenda of the two media outlets.

"It is more symbolic than anything . . . It is my way of reminding the Cebuanos that (Sun*Star and dyHP) were used during the elections," Osmeña told the INQUIRER.

Bitter rivals

Sun*Star Cebu is owned by the Garcia family whose scion, former Mayor Alvin Garcia, is Osmeña's bitter political rival.

Garcia ran for a third term in the May 14 election but Osmeña defeated him in what was dubbed as Cebu's closest mayoral race in recent years.

Radio station dyHP is managed by lawyer Cynthia Barte whose husband Venustiano, was a candidate for councilor under Garcia's party, Kugi Uswag Sugbo (Kusog).

Osmeña clarified that the banned reporters are still free to interview any City Hall officials and to get copies of public documents, even from the mayor's office.

"I'd like to clarify that I have nothing against the reporters but with what they represent," Osmeña said. "I have the right to grant interviews in the same way I have the right to refuse."

Though Sun*Star Cebu and dyHP are taking the ban "in stride," Sun*Star Cebu ran an editorial opposing the ban "because it is illegal and violates the government's policy of transparency and because we passionately believe that a public office is never any official's private property." The ban, continued the Sun*Star editorial came as no surprise as Osmeña had been avoiding its reporters even before the start of the electoral campaign.

The editorial also said the decision to file charges against Osmeña had yet to be decided by the Sun*Star Cebu's board of directors "although many of the paper's staffers don't see any compelling need and will be content with seeing the public condemn his act."

The two other daily newspapers in the city, the Cebu Daily News and The Freeman, have also written editorials opposing the ban as an affront to press freedom.

The City Hall Association of Reporters in Media (CHARM), an organization of reporters covering the City Hall, had also asked Osmeña to reconsider the ban.

The Kapisanang ng mga Brodkasters sa Pilipinas plans to hold a dialogue with the mayor to ask him to lift the ban.

Only drama station

Barte, for her part, said the radio station was never used during the election, either to campaign for Garcia or to discredit Osmeña.

She also said her husband had never interfered in the preparation of the news. "This (dyHP) is basically a drama station. We have drama from 8 (a.m.) to 9:30 p.m.," Barte said.

Dismal record

Osmeña has a record of banning reporters from media groups that he perceives are critical of him.

During his first term as mayor in the late 1980s, he had barred a reporter from Bombo Radyo because he felt that its station manager had gone out of bounds in criticizing him.

In that incident, several media groups led by Sun*Star editor in chief Pachico Seares stepped in to try to settle the conflict between Osmeña and the radio station.

In a dialogue with CHARM members yesterday, Osmeña maintained that the ban will stay for as long as Barte is the station manager of dyHP and the Garcias still own Sun*Star Cebu.

He said the ban does not violate the freedom of the press because other reporters can still interview him and can criticize him.

Reporters of Sun*Star Cebu and dyHP are allowed to leave their tape recorders during his press conferences, Osmeña added.

He claimed he knew how the paper was used because he was once its beneficiary when he first ran for mayor in 1988 and won reelection in 1992.

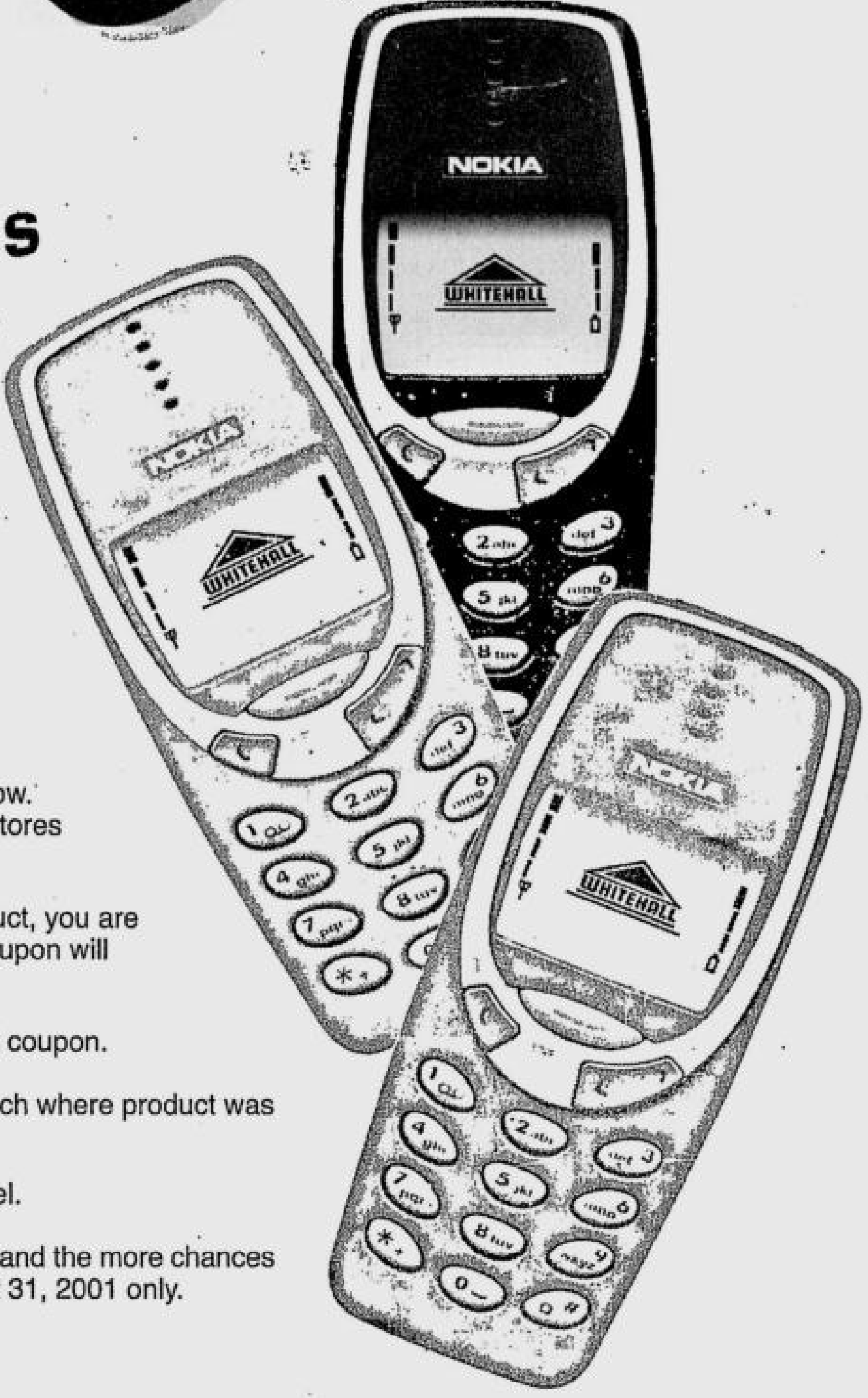
In both electoral races, Garcia was Osmeña's running mate. Sun*Star Cebu, he said, favored the Bando Osmeña Pundok Kauswagan, Osmeña's local party, during his electoral campaigns with Garcia.

Osmeña decided not to run for a third term in 1995 and endorsed the candidacy of Garcia for mayor. The rift between Garcia and Osmeña began in 1999, barely a year after Garcia's second term, when Osmeña began publicly criticizing Garcia's handling of city affairs.

The two erstwhile best friends and political allies became bitter enemies by year 2000. Their word war escalated as the campaign season began and when it became clear that Osmeña had planned to challenge Garcia's bid for his last term as mayor.

Osmeña claimed that the Sun*Star was objective in its reportage until the last two months before the elections when it started to slant its news and commentaries in favor of Garcia's candidates.

Osmeña's ban, said the Sun*Star editorial, "is personal vendetta, plain and unadulterated." *With a report from Jhunnex Napallacan, PDI Visayas Bureau*



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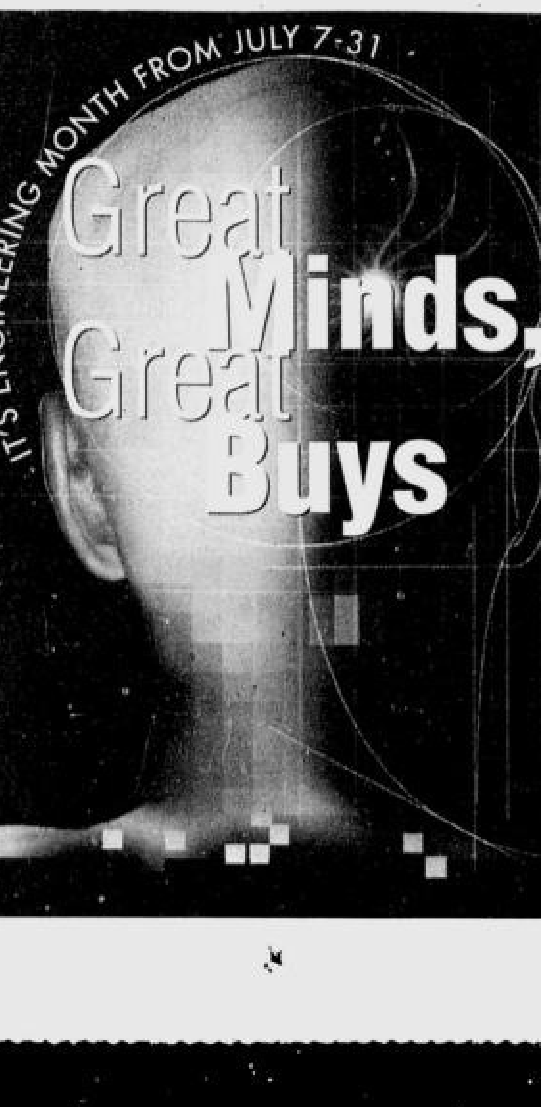
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Corpus, Lacson 'war' heats up

(From page A1)

Clavio in turn placed him in the custody of a priest who knew somebody with a line to Corpus. It was days after before the Isafp placed Ador and his family under custody.

Corpus noted that Ador had passed the polygraph test administered by the National Bureau of Investigation.

"In the case of Ping, will he pass a lie detector test?" Corpus said.

"If the public really wants to know the real score, why don't the two of them simultaneously undergo a polygraph test?" the Isafp chief said.

Corpus said he himself was willing to undergo a lie detector test if only to prove that he was not ordering Ador to hit Lacson.

"Let's just see each other in court," Corpus said, referring to Lacson.

Buoyed by the results of the polygraph test, Ador disclosed that Lacson had also been involved in smuggling.

Luncheon meat, bank account

Ador said Lacson's group had smuggled into the country goods like "Maling" luncheon meat, cellular phones, rice, sugar, appliances and Coke in cans.

Ador said he had receipts of the smuggled goods he delivered to traders on behalf of Lacson.

Aside from delivery receipts, there are checks deposited into a bank account of the former PAOCTF chief, according to Ador. "These (checks) all went to the bank account of Lacson," he said.

Ador said Lacson was grossly mistaken when he claimed that the former PAOCTF civilian agent was being manipulated by his arch-enemy Senior Supt. Reynaldo Berroya, chief of the Intelligence Group of the PNP. Ador said he was ready to face Lacson in court to substantiate his charges.

He dared Lacson to keep his word and take the lie detector test. "Face me like a man."

"Sir, take the lie detector test soon and do it in front of the media so that the results will not be changed," Ador said.

Lacson had said that he would submit to a polygraph test if Ador had passed the test.

Lacson yesterday said there was no need for him to take the test because, according to him, Ador was not telling the truth.

The former PNP chief said he would consider undergoing a polygraph test only if Ador and Corpus had passed it.

No basis

"What is the basis of making me undergo a polygraph test? Maybe they should subject themselves to the same test," he said. "In the first place, if all these allegations are lies, there is no basis for me to undergo that test."

Corpus confirmed that Ador had passed the NBI polygraph test.

Lapses

But Reynaldo Wycoco, National Bureau of Investigation director, did not say that Ador had passed a second lie detector test.

Wycoco said the "lapses and inconsistencies" in Ador's first polygraph test prompted the NBI to give the ex-civilian agent another one on Thursday afternoon.

Wycoco said the bureau was "forced" to give Ador another test to "to determine with finality if what he is saying is fabricated or real."

Wycoco explained that the lapses in Ador's first polygraph test could have been the result of "stress and faulty memory."

The NBI chief added that Ador was recalling events that took place three to five years ago.

Wycoco, however, hinted that during their investigation, several of Ador's allegations corroborated the results of the investigations independently gathered by the NBI.

But he said he did not want any more "politics" to interfere in their probe.

Stay cool

He advised the personalities currently named in Ador's allegations to "stay cool and be objective" as the NBI was still working on the case and had not even pointed an accusing finger at them.

Corpus said Ador would undergo psychiatric and drug tests as part of his continuing evaluation.

Ador said he himself had requested these tests.

He admitted that he was not issued an ID of the PAOCTF "because our activities were illegal."

But he said Lacson had given him a fake ID and a badge of the PNP, which he said he would produce at the appropriate time.

Ador said he decided to surface after learning last month from a certain S-2 that members of their PAOCTF group were being killed off "before the start of the session of the Senate." He said he took S-2's information as the truth when he personally saw the bullet-riddled bodies of Mang Ben, one of his buddies, as well as Mang Ben's wife and son.

"That was why I surfaced: to protect not only my life but those of my wife and two children," Ador said.

He recalled that Mang Ben's body had two gunshot wounds, while his wife's had one and his son, six gunshot wounds.

Not crazy, not afraid

Ador brushed aside claims that he was crazy, a habitual liar and a swindler.

"They can call me anything they want," he said. "But no crazy individual can pass a polygraph test."

He said he was not afraid of Lacson whom he described as "a fool for failing to kill him earlier."

"I'm not afraid of Lacson," he said. "I've been with him face to face before."

Ador said he wished he could give more specifics about the illegal activities of Lacson's group. He was constrained to do so because pieces of evidence were being gathered by government agents for the filing of cases against Lacson and his men.

No bad blood

Corpus said there was no bad blood between him and Lacson before.

"When we (Isafp) were asked to help to investigate criminal activities, we received a lot of reports about the involvement of Lacson in illegal activities like kidnapping, summary executions, drugs, bank robberies . . . and a lot more," Corpus said.

"My only 'sin' was that Ador was referred to Isafp," he said.

Corpus, however, noted that since Isafp started investigating Lacson's alleged crime links, Lacson started to get angry with him and with people, who had gone to Isafp to lay the goods on Lacson. "That's the reason I know why he is mad at me," he said.

Corpus stressed that Isafp was still verifying Ador's revelations.

"Some of them may be true, others may turn out to be false," he said.

One of these is the alleged summary execution of casino employee Edgar Bentain, who is believed to have leaked a videotape showing then presidential candidate Joseph Estrada and his buddy Atong Ang playing a high-stakes card game.

Corpus said Isafp appeared to be making headway in the recovery of the remains of Bentain.

Corpus said two witnesses, a certain Julie and her husband, had claimed seeing the drum near a bridge in Bacolor, Pampanga.

Ador said in his affidavit that he saw Bentain in the drum covered with cement. The drum was later buried in lahar.

RAMON TULFO: Targeted

Tulfo denies getting ₱250,000 monthly from PNP

By Armand N. Nocum

SEN. PANFILO Lacson yesterday tagged INQUIRER columnist Ramon Tulfo as one of those allegedly in the payola of the Philippine National Police.

Lacson, a former PNP chief, said on radio dzBB that Tulfo was receiving P250,000 a month.

Tulfo denied the charges and dared Lacson to name the other media persons on the PNP list.

The columnist said Lacson's sweeping allegations had placed all mediamen under suspicion.

Lacson named Tulfo after dzBB broadcaster Arnold Clavio pressed him to name those on the list of mediamen receiving money from the PNP.

Lacson had earlier said that it was he who ordered that the practice of paying members of the media be stopped after taking over the post from former PNP chief Roberto Lastimoso.

Lacson said it was the PNP comptroller that gave him the list. "He can confirm it," he said of the comptroller.

He said Tulfo was the "hard hitting" media person he was earlier referring to as receiving P250,000 a month during Lastimoso's term.

But he quickly defended Tulfo, saying that "in fairness to Mon, maybe (the money) does not even get to him because there are many enterprising" people in the PNP who do such things.

In any organization, there are people claiming to have gotten the support of newsmen and telling their bosses to allot money for them, according to Lacson.

"Boss, let's send this man money. He is okay. He is on our list. This is for Tulfo, P250,000," he said of a possible spin from a police subaltern.

"But I cannot say categorically if this (money) reaches him. I don't have personal knowledge if this reaches him," he said.

Lacson said he did not remember the names of other mediamen receiving money from the PNP. He said the monthly fees range from P10,000 to P20,000 a month.

In a telephone interview from Cebu, Tulfo said he expected Lacson to get back at him after he wrote in his column that he was a personal witness to how Lacson was executing suspected criminals in his early years in the police.

"I'm lucky that I'm getting away with character assassination. Normally, people who cross swords with him either end up six feet below the ground or float somewhere in the Pasig River," Tulfo said.

But he shared Lacson's view that some people in the PNP could have used his name.

He dared Lacson to name the other media persons.

"He should not play sissy. He should name all the other journalists on the list," he said.

Angel of mercy buried alive; death toll hits 101

(From page A1)

clared in the same state Thursday.

The President released P5 million from her social fund for the repair of infrastructure damaged by the typhoon.

This is on top of the P5 million earlier released by the Department of Public Works and Highways for the repair of the Caranglaan dike.

The rains destroyed the dike, causing the inundation of Bayambang and other towns in the third district of Pangasinan.

In her weekly news conference in Malacañang, the President expressed sadness over the deaths and the damage, and said government agencies would provide the necessarily relief.

She said that on her way to Pangasinan by helicopter, she observed that flooding in certain parts of Metro Manila had subsided, thanks to dredging operations conducted in previous months.

But she expressed irritation over reports that flooding in certain areas in the metropolis was brought on by the indiscriminate dumping of garbage.

"We should have learned by now that even with a little rain, the streets will be flooded if we don't clean the *esteros* and we don't remove the garbage from canals and culverts," the President said.

She appealed to the public to dispose of garbage properly, and issued the reminder that more typhoons were expected to hit the country now that the rainy season had set in.

Whole families

Lawrence Adube, chief of Baguio's barangay affairs office, said that at the peak of the typhoon's strength, Albon went around Pinsao Proper warning residents living on cliff sides to seek safe grounds.

Adube said Albon's family would receive a citation from the city government for her heroism.

Government and volunteer rescue teams have stumbled on whole families buried alive by landslides, like the Doques in Barangay Sto. Tomas Central.

Those killed were Remalyn, 3, Myra, 6, Marjorie, 25, Lydia, 60, Anastacio, 60, and Renaldo, 41—all surnamed Doque.

In the vegetable-growing town of Atok in Benguet, a landslide claimed another family.

Rescue workers were told that Arlyn and Eddie Calungi left their house with three of their children in tow when the typhoon struck Wednesday.

The Calungis sought shelter in their parents' house, which was suddenly hit by a landslide. No one in the house survived.

The Regional Disaster Coordinating Council (RDCC) in the Cordillera said 40 had been reported missing.

Damage to crops in Benguet and Kalinga was estimated at P7 million, and to infrastructure in Baguio and Benguet, at P54.05 million.

RDCC reports said damage to infrastructure in Kalinga and Mt. Province was estimated at P5 million and P5.5 million.

In Ifugao, damage to infrastructure was P6.5 million, and to crops, P21.06 million.

The Apayao, Chico and Cagayan Rivers also swelled during the typhoon, the RDCC added.

Pangasinan

In Binalonan, Pangasinan, PO2 Marco Valerio died at the height of the typhoon while in service as a traffic policeman. He was among the 12 killed in the province.

Valerio, 32, guided a Manila-bound L-300 van as it negotiated four-foot floodwaters raging over the Aloragat Bridge.

The bridge collapsed after the van had passed through, and Valerio was swept away by the strong currents.

His companion, P02 Veranio Tomiñez, said Valerio's cries for help were muted by the howling wind. Tomiñez dived into the river when he felt the bridge shaking, and survived.

Valerio's wife Erlinda and two children received P50,000 in cash from the President yesterday.

In Dagupan City, frantic parents of two missing boys found their children alive in San Jacinto town about 6 kilometers away.

The boys owed their lives to a floating banana trunk to which they clung for five hours until rescuers found them stuck in a bamboo grove in Barangay Magsaysay.

According to reports, Christian Paul Dimayuga, 14, and his friend were biking to Dagupan when the waters released from the reservoirs of the Binga and Ambuklao dams in Benguet caught up with them.

Chief Insp. Manny Landingin, San Jacinto police chief, told the INQUIRER that one of the boys grabbed the banana trunk and then they both held on to it.

Landingin said another boy who had been reported missing was found alive on the roof of a house in Barangay San Vicente in San Jacinto.

In Malasiqui town, another boy on a bike survived the floods by climbing a mango tree in Barangay Apaya.

The Pangasinan Provincial Disaster Coordinating Council reported the destruction of more than P43 million in fish, mostly *bangus* grown in ponds, at least P1.8 million in crops, and roads and bridges worth P3.3 million.

In Bayambang town, the 600-meter portion of the Gualsic Dike of the Agno Flood Control Project collapsed. About 200 meters of the dike in Malasiqui was also washed away, triggering floods reaching up to 8 feet in central Pangasinan.

More than 400 villages in 28 towns in Pangasinan were still flooded yesterday.

In Dagupan, damage to agriculture, fishery and infrastructure reached more than P80 million. At least P23 million in *bangus* grown in ponds was lost.

Ilocos Sur, La Union

In Ilocos Sur, 14 people were reported killed and two missing.

Among the dead are Evaristo Papa Sr., John Domino, Domingo Salvador, Francisco Butwang, Dionisio Tuay-an, Francisca Lumag-ay, Magdalena Asia, sisters Judy and Mary Ann Virocel, and Reynaldo Licudan.

The middle span of the Quirino bridge in Bantay town collapsed, isolating Vigan City and the towns in the first district of Ilocos Sur.

This resulted in panic buying of gasoline and other oil products, officials said.

Two Armed Forces helicopters were sent to the province on the request of former Gov. Luis "Chavit" Singson to transport stranded people, mostly expatriate Filipinos, to nearby Ilocos Norte.

In La Union, crop damage was placed at P6.4 million, and damage to infrastructure and fishery P205,000 and P622,000.

At least 28 people were hurt when a hurricane hit the villages of Catbangen and Poro in San Fernando City Thursday.

Reports said several villages in Sto. Tomas, Agoo and Aringay towns were still flooded yesterday.

Health Secretary Manuel Dayrit visited San Fernando Thursday and donated two truckloads of medicines to typhoon victims.

Cagayan Valley

Five people were reported killed and three others missing in Cagayan Valley.

Disaster officials said Rodolfo de Guzman, Armando Javier and Adela Cahanat, all from Sta. Ana, Cagayan, were electrocuted. Elmer Ballad of Peñablanca, Cagayan, and Momog Apoy of Bagabag, Nueva Vizcaya, drowned.

Phone and power lines have been down since Wednesday.

Damage to agriculture was placed at P40 million in Isabela and P30 million in Cagayan.

In Nueva Vizcaya, more than 50 villages in 11 towns in the province were flooded.

Evaliza Agamata, Office of Civil Defense chief in Nueva Vizcaya, said damage to crops was initially estimated at P13.1 million, and to roads and bridges P1.1 million.

Dalton Pass in Sta. Fe town was opened to traffic yesterday.

Central Luzon

In Zambales, a fisherman was killed and two others went missing when their boat capsized off the coast of Sta. Cruz town at the height of the typhoon.

The body of Daniel Eral, 26, was found by the crew of a ship that rescued two other fishermen Thursday.

Chief Insp. Eugene Sapasap, Sta. Cruz police chief, said Eral, Eddie Ebunga and Jessie Ebana went to sea on June 26 but met with strong wind and rain on July 4.

Ebunga and Ebana remained missing at press time.

Also reported killed was one Virgilio Ovilla, 60, a fisherman of Masinloc town.

The ship that docked off Masinloc Bay rescued fishermen Rodolfo Eral and Ricky Nuñez, who were found clinging to a floating styrofoam container.

More than 700 families from 86 coastal villages in Zambales were moved to safe grounds, reports said.

Floods spawned by Feria destroyed at least P15 million worth of newly planted palay in Central Luzon.

Yesterday, at least 92 villages remained flooded in Bataan, Pampanga, Zambales, Tarlac and Nueva Ecija.

Heavy floods are expected in the coastal towns of Bulacan as the waters from Nueva Ecija and Pampanga are expected to hit Bulacan before draining into Manila Bay.

Reports from the regional Department of Social Welfare and Development said floods had displaced at least 79,000 residents of Central Luzon.

The DSWD said 154 families from Aliaga, Nueva Ecija, and Sta. Cruz, Zambales, had been taken to four evacuation centers in those provinces.

Manila

In Manila, a total of 250 families (1,250 persons) have been evacuated from their homes in the city's western and southern areas since Wednesday.

Most of those displaced are from the Baseco Compound and communities along the Estero de Vitas in Tondo.

Juliet Villegas, head of the DSWD in Manila, said most of the evacuees were being housed at the Barangay 105 and 649 halls and at the Baseco Health Center.

The DSWD also evacuated dozens of families living along the sea wall on Roxas Boulevard.

Bad weather forced commercial airlines based in Hong Kong and Taiwan to cancel their flights to and from Manila yesterday, the flight information officer at the Ninoy Aquino International Airport said.

Cathay Pacific cancelled three of its flights for Hong Kong scheduled at 7 a.m., 11 a.m. and 12:55 p.m.

Also, the airline's flights from Hong Kong did not arrive in Manila as scheduled at 11:50 p.m. Thursday and at 9:50 a.m. and 11 a.m. yesterday.

China Airlines' flight from Kaoshiung to Manila was also cancelled, and so was its return flight yesterday morning.

Davao City

At least 155 houses were damaged by monsoon waves that hit seven coastal villages in Davao City early Thursday as Feria was lashing Luzon.

The Davao City Disaster Coordinating Council reported that huge waves battered the city's shorelines about 4 a.m. Residents awakened from sleep scampered to safety as the waves destroyed their homes.

The heavily affected areas were Bago Aplaya, Puroks San Jose and KP in R. Castillo, Isla Suerte in Times Beach, Punta Dumalag, Matina Aplaya, Purok 8-A, Barangay 31-D and Lanang Beach Club.

The council said no one was seriously hurt although the waters carried away several fishing boats. ***Reports from Vincent Cabreza, Nathan Alcantara, Alfred Dizon, Jessebel Lacbawan, Yolanda Fuertes, Leoncio Balbin Jr., Villamor Visaya Jr., Ben Moses Ebreo and Gia Damaso-Dumo, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau; Cesar Villa, Tonette Orejas and Jun Malig, PDI Central Luzon Desk; Christine Avendano, Jerome Aning and TJ Burgonio in Manila; Anthony S. Allada and Ayan C. Mellejor, PDI Mindanao Bureau***

'Hot spots' specialist new US envoy to RP

(From page A1)

Powell, who is known to prefer career diplomats over political appointees in filling up major vacancies.

The source said "some Republicans are not happy with the choice" of Dobbins because of the actions he took when he was the State Department's senior manager for peace operations in Haiti in 1994-96.

"I am told he is a first-rate foreign service person," the source added.

Long wait

The Philippines has been without an American ambassador for a year, since Thomas C. Hubbard left for the United States and, recently, for a new posting in South Korea.

Peter Burleigh, another State Department veteran, was to have replaced the popular Hubbard at the Manila posting, but he became a political pawn between the Republicans and Clinton.

Burleigh, described as "the best man for the job" by his former boss at the United Nations, decided to retire after months of waiting.

Chris Castro, officer of the Philippine Desk at the State Department, told the INQUIRER that the yearlong absence of an American ambassador should not be a cause for concern.

"The United States regards the Philippines as an important ally and places importance on its role in maintaining peace and stability in the Asia-Pacific region," Castro said.

Recently, Hubbard also aired the same assurance, adding that Michael Malinowski, the charge d'affaires at the US Embassy in Manila, "has been doing a great job."

Expertise 'hot spots'

Hubbard's likely successor does not have an extensive background in Asia. His expertise is in Europe, where he served in various top posts for over 20 years, including as ambassador to the European Community in 1991-93.

But he was with the US delegation to the Vietnam peace talks in 1968, and, as an officer in the US Navy, he also served for two years in Vietnam.

Dobbins also handled virtually all the major "hot spots" overseas in recent years.

He was the State Department's senior manager for peace operations in Kosovo, Bosnia, Haiti and Somalia, and was special adviser to Clinton and Secretary of State Madeleine Albright for Kosovo and the Dayton peace implementation.

He handled the Balkan crisis throughout the Kosovo conflict in 1999.

Dobbins also supervised the diplomatic and civil aspects of the Clinton administration's intervention in Haiti in 1994 to 1996. Previously, he oversaw the disengagement of US forces from Somalia.

Aside from his official functions, Dobbins was a senior fellow at the Rand Corporation in 1993 and at the Council of Foreign Relations in 1994-96.

At the State Department in Washington, Dobbins served as deputy assistant secretary (1982-85), principal deputy assistant secretary (1989-90), and acting assistant secretary for European and Canadian Affairs (1991-93).

In Europe, he served as deputy chief of mission in Bonn (1985-89), political-military Officer in London (1978-81), and political officer in Paris (1969).

Dobbins was born on May 31, 1942, in Brooklyn, New York. He graduated from Georgetown University in 1963. He is married to the Toril Kleivdal Dobbins, with whom he has two sons.

James Bond . . .

(From page A1)

be crawling with James Bond-ish characters.

The local police are fielding undercover agents to snoop on guests, mostly undesirable aliens, who might convert their hotel rooms into instant drug laboratories.

And the presence of the Pinoy James Bonds should make Abu Sayyaf bandits think twice before they "visit" the region.

But hotel owners are not too keen about adopting the idea of deploying the secret agents.

Eileen San Juan, president of the Cagayan de Oro Hotel and Resort Association, said the strategy is subject to abuse and could add to the perception that Mindanao was a war-torn area.

"Others might feel secure but many would be scared," she said.

Another hotel owner was concerned about who would pay for the food of the operatives.

Supt. Arturo Invento, chief of the police investigation and inspectorate division in Northern Mindanao, said the spies would be fielded this month.

"You could never tell if those tourists coming in were doing something illegal," Invento said.

He said they had already asked the immigration bureau to furnish them a list of aliens who were barred from entering the country.

He said suspicions that undesirable aliens might convert their hotel rooms into shabu laboratories were prompted by US Drug Enforcement Agency findings that drug suppliers have the technology to manufacture shabu from laboratory equipment that can be stored in a small attaché case.

He said criminals posing as tourists could easily check into a local hotel or resort and then manufacture illegal drugs from there.

"It's better if we were prepared," Invento said.

He said most of the policemen who would be deployed would come from the newly organized Tourist Assistance Office-Police Outpost (Tao Po).

Senior police officials met at the Philtown Hotel here on Wednesday with hotel and resort owners in Northern Mindanao to set the guidelines for the deployment of the undercover agents.

Dorothy Jean Pabayo, tourism regional director for Northern Mindanao, urged the hotel and resort owners to adopt the police security measure especially in the wake of the Abu Sayyaf threat.

"It's our duty to make the stay of our foreign visitors safe and comfortable," she said.

She said tourist arrivals in northern Mindanao went down by 14 percent after foreign governments advised their citizens to shy away from Mindanao.

One of those that issued a travel advisory against travel to some parts of Mindanao was the United Kingdom, where incidentally the "real" James Bond comes from.

RP golf champ in Jakarta

THE PHILIPPINES won yesterday the 18th Asean Seniors Golf crown in Jakarta. "We dedicate this victory to our countrymen as we extend our gratitude to the NGAP, especially Benny Gopez, who made possible our trip," said Rico Javier of the winning team that also included Cmdr. Danny Pizarro, Balty Baltazar and Gen. Teddy Yabes. The Filipinos beat entries from Thailand, Indonesia, Malaysia and Singapore.

SPORTS

AL S. MENDOZA, Editor ▨ EDWIN M. VILLANUEVA, Assistant Editor

SPORTS ON TV

COMPILED BY LORENZO MANGUIAT

GOLF: PGA Advil Western Open, Second Round at 9:30 a.m. on Star Sports

LPGA Jamie Farr Kroger Classic, Second Round at 8 p.m. (r), Third Round tomorrow at 2 a.m. on ESPN

TENNIS: Wimbledon - Day 11 Highlights at 8 a.m. (r – 8 p.m.), Day 11 - Men's Singles Semifinals at 11:30 a.m. (r), Day 12 - Ladies Singles/Men's and Mixed Doubles Final at 9 p.m. on Star Sports

BASKETBALL: Asian Basketball Show at 9 a.m. on Star Sports

NBA Inside Stuff at 4:30 p.m. (r) on Star Sports

PBA THRILLER

Mobiline outlasts Tanduay in OT

Games Tomorrow (Araneta Coliseum)
4:15 p.m.—Alaska Milk vs Shell
6:30 p.m.—Sta. Lucia Realty vs Red Bull

BY JUNE NAVARRO

ANTIPOLO CITY—Todd Bernard woke up from a deep slumber to anchor Mobiline to a come-from-behind 94-89 overtime victory over slumping Tanduay last night in the PBA Commissioner's Cup at the Ynares Center here.

Shackled in the first three quarters, Bernard exploded in the fourth and conspired with crowd-pleaser Asi Taulava down the stretch for the Phone Pals' third win in seven matches.

In the second game, Barangay Ginebra survived a blistering Pop Cola comeback in the fourth quarter to escape with an 83-80 victory for its fourth win in seven outings. Pop dropped to 3-5.

Taulava scored a career-high 43 points and blocked seven shots for Mobiline, which won its first game since the 6-foot-9 behemoth came back dangling his recognition papers from the Department of Justice two weeks ago.

But Bernard made the most damage on the Rhummasters' bid as he strung 14 of the Phone Pals last 16 points in the fourth and extension period.

During that span Kevin Freeman single-handedly carried Tanduay, scoring nine straight points in one stretch and sinking two crucial free throws in the fading moments to tie the count at 87 in regulation.

The Rhummasters, however, sputtered in the extra period, managing to put only a single basket which led to their fifth defeat in seven games.

"I really didn't expect Bernard to pull the game for us. He was quite sluggish prior to the fourth, making us rely more on Asi," said Mobiline mentor Louie Alas.

Draining only 7 points in the first three quarters, Bernard came to life in the fourth to finish with 24.

Freeman had the game of his life as he sizzled with 44 points, a career high but wasn't enough to save the Rhummasters from nearing the threshold of elimination.

The Rhummasters are just a victory ahead of the Shell Zoommasters, who are languishing at the cellar with a 1-6 record.

The Scores:

MOBILINE 94—Taulava 43, Bernard 24, Codinera 12, Camaso 7, Ravena 4, Pablo 2, Demape 2, Fran 0, Ejercito 0, Babilonia 0.

TANDUAY 89—Freeman 44, Hontiveros 11, Carlaso 10, Realubit 6, Cantonjos 6, Balingit 5, Pumaren 2, Locsin 2, Webb 2.

Quarterscores: 15-18, 33-43, 59-61, 87-87, 94-89 OT.

Marlins shock San Juan Knights

STANDINGS	W	L
Negros	7	2
Andok's San Juan	6	3
LBC Batangas	4	2
Cebuana Lhuillier	5	3
FedEx Laguna	3	3
Nueva Ecija	2	4
Socsargen	2	6
Davao	1	7

GAMES TOMORROW
Cebu City Coliseum
3:00 p.m.—Negros vs Nueva Ecija
San Juan Gym
5:30 p.m.—Negros vs San Juan

BY ROY LUARCA

THE SOCSARGEN Marlins stunned the Andok's San Juan Knights with a blistering run at the start of the fourth quarter and went on to tally a 108-97 victory last night in the Metropolitan Basketball Association First Phase at the CP Tinga Gym in Taguig.

With their second stringers delivering, the Marlins clustered 13 points to post a 91-71 spread which proved too large to overhaul even for the talent-laden Knights.

It was the second straight win for the Marlins after dropping their first six games, including a 114-90 rout at the hands of the Knights in their first encounter on June 27.

The Knights, on the other hand, saw their four-game winning streak broken and dropped to second place at 6-3 behind first game winner Negros Slashers.

Cris Bade stood at the helm of the Marlins offense with 25 points and 12 rebounds though it was Aldrich Reyes who delivered the lethal blows with 20 points and 2 steals.

Earlier, rookie Dino Aldeguer had his breakout game, combining with veteran Ruben dela Rosa to spearhead the Slashers' 114-88 dumping of the Nueva Ecija Patriots.

Given the opportunity to shine by coach Robert Sison, the 5-foot-9 ½ former De La Salle Green Archer responded to the challenge by pumping in 13 of his 16 points and ably orchestrating the plays in the decisive fourth quarter.

The scores:

NEGROS 114—Aldeguer 16, Ferriols 16, Dela Rosa 15, White 15, Cardel 14, Bat-og 11, Hugnatan 8, Benedicto 6, Tierra 5, Huelar 0, Ignacio 0.

N. ECIJA 88—Bautista 21, A, de Guzman 14, Manucat 10, Bansil 10, Allen 8, Aquino 8, Racho 8, De Guia 5, J. de Guzman 4, Punzalan 0, Makalintal 0.

Quarters: 25-31, 54-55, 70-72, 114-88.

77th NCAA season at Big Dome

GAMES TODAY *(Araneta Coliseum)*
12 nn—Opening Ceremonies
1 p.m.—San Sebastian vs Jose Rizal University
3 p.m.—Mapua vs UPHR
5 p.m.—St. Benilde vs Letran
7 p.m.—Philippine Christian U vs San Beda

EXPECT nothing less than the cacophonous beating of the drums and the deafening roars of the collegiate crowd as the 77th National Collegiate Athletic Association fires off today at the Araneta Coliseum.

With the theme "Revitalizing the Heritage of Sports," the oldest collegiate league in the country features eight reputedly balanced squads for this year's crown.

College of St. Benilde, tugging along its breath-holding gang of sensual cheerleaders, opens its title-retention bid against Letran at 5 p.m.

As defending champions, pressure will certainly be on the side of the Blazers, who became the youngest team to ever capture an NCAA title as they only joined in 1998.

"But we are ready for any obstacle that would stop us from scoring a back-to-back title. I guess we have pretty good chances since we still are an almost intact lineup," said CSB coach Dong Vergeire.

Equally talented, San Beda and host Philippine Christian University will tangle in the nightcap.

Veteran coach Jimmy Mariano will call the shots for the Dolphins while the Red Lions will be coached by Rene Baena.

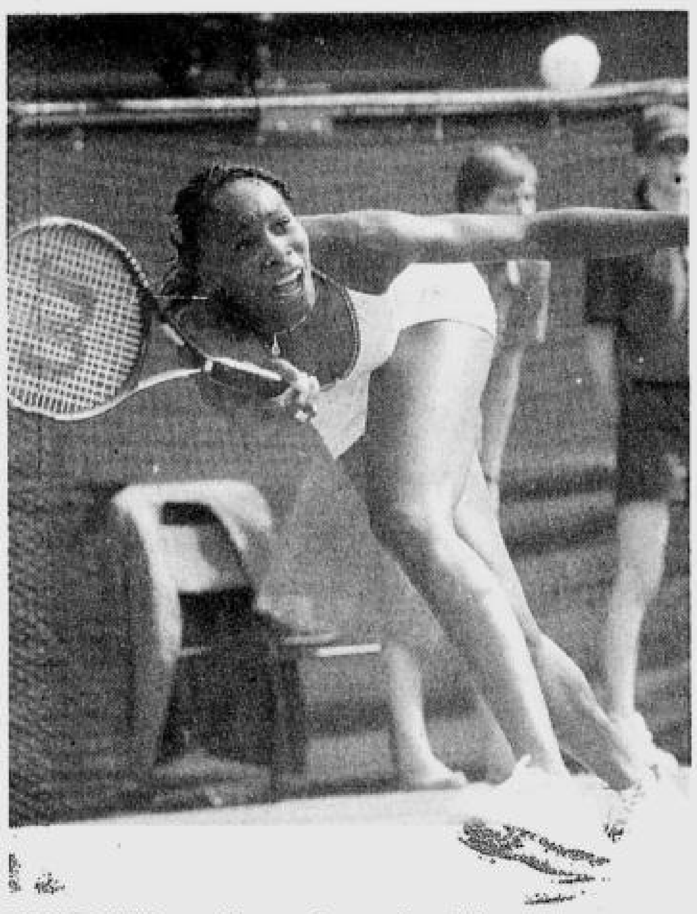
Chino is Espiritu Cup guest today

GAMES TODAY (Makati Coliseum)
2:00 p.m.—Opening Ceremony
2:30 p.m.—G.P. Maryson vs Army
4:00 p.m.—Wang's vs Spring Cooking Oil

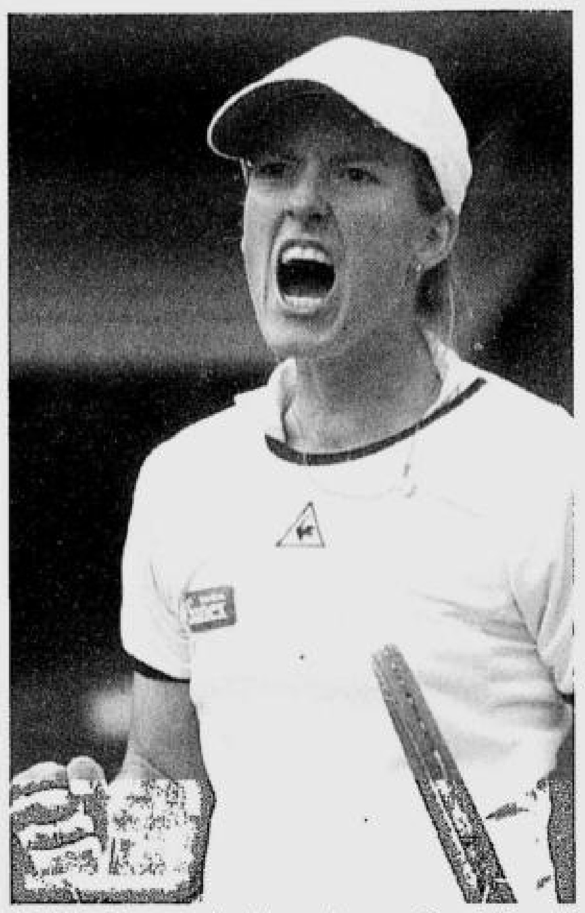
PBL Commissioner Chino Trinidad will be guest of honor as the NBC-3rd Danny Espiritu Cup basketball tournament unwraps with a doubleheader today at the Makati Coliseum.

It will be G.P. Maryson against Coach Ronald Manahan's Philippine Army cagers at 2:30 p.m. and Coach Tito Palma's Spring Cooking Oil against Wang's ball Club at 4 o'clock.

Trinidad will give an inspirational talk during the 2 p.m. opening ceremony and make the ceremonial toss together with sportsman Danny Espiritu. PBA player and tournament commissioner Mar Morelos will welcome the guests and participants while Espiritu will declare the tourney open after the oath of sportsmanship to be led by Rommel Daep.



VENUS Williams: Hungry for another title.



HENIN: Scores shocking win over Capriati. AP

It's Venus vs Belgian for Wimbledon crown

WIMBLEDON, England —Defending Wimbledon champion Venus Williams defeated former champion Lindsay Davenport, 6-2, 6-7 (1), 6-1, on Thursday on Center Court to reach the final against Belgian Justine Henin.

Williams, who beat the Californian in a one-sided, two-set final a year ago, began to overpower Davenport from the first point and had her under pressure from the first game when Williams started hammering 120 mph (192 kph) serves.

After breezing through the first set, Williams led 4-2 in the second and seemed headed for an easy victory. But Davenport broke Williams for the first time in the match in the seventh game and, picking on Williams' shaky forehand and faltering serve, got back even winning the tiebreaker, 7-1.

But instead of the third-seeded Davenport getting the momentum, it was second-seeded Williams who bounced back and broke Davenport three times in the final set to take it, 6-1. Davenport has a 10-7 career record against Williams, but Williams has won four of the last five.

In the other semifinal on Center Court, Henin defeated Jennifer Capriati 2-6, 6-4, 6-2.

Williams, who also won the U.S. Open a year ago, is still hungry for another title at the All England Club.

"One isn't enough. I've got to keep getting more, taking titles home," she said after the victory.

Williams credited Davenport, the former Australian and U.S. Open champion, with coming from behind.

"She started playing very well in the second set and hit some penetrating balls, and I think my feet stopped moving. I think she was very much into the match, I think I just played well.

"When you're down 2-6 and 1-4 there's some things you've got to do, and I think she really just started going all out for it."

Williams, 21, said she saw some of the 19-year-old Belgian's win over Capriati.

"She's a good player, a very good player and it seems like she likes the grass," Williams said."And you have to be playing very well to beat Jennifer Capriati in 2001."

AP

Cebu hosts Adidas Streetball

THE ADIDAS Streetball Challenge 2001 heads for Cebu, where the Visayas eliminations of the country's most popular three-on-three event will be held this weekend at SM Cebu.

Cebu City Mayor Tomas Osmeña is expected to open the event. Some 450 teams are competing in divisions.'

Registration was brisk despite rains, proof that Cebu remains one of the cradles of Philippine basketball.

Action will be keen and entertaining in the seniors (boys, 16-18 years), girls (18 years and below), juniors (boys, 12-15 years), midgets (boys, 9-11 years) and the debuting Streetball on Wheels.

"Given Cebu's high level of play, basketball fans are in for an excellent weekend treat," said Adidas marketing and sales director Sonny Nebres.

'Festival' races on

THE MANILA Jockey Club Inc. ups the ante in today's continuation of the Fil-Am Friendship Racing Festiva as it stages two races carrying more than half-a-million pesos at the San Lazaro Hippodrome.

Highlights of the race card are the "Megaworld Cup" and the "Coca-Cola Cup."

The five-day racefest ends tomorrow with the running of the "Horseman's Cup," the 3rd and final leg of the Philracom Triple Crown Series.

Ong seeks title

FERDINAND Ong of Rota-Speedwelle-Outlast Battery tries to move closer to the overall championship when the Petron Grand Prix resumes with the ninth and 10th rounds at the Subic International Raceway this weekend.

Ong, who is seeking to become only the sixth man to win the prestigious "Driver of the Year" honors since the revival of circuit racing in the country in 1994, will try to extend his lead in the Blaze super saloon category with only six rounds remaining.

A win by Ong in either the ninth or 10th rounds will put him way ahead in the overall standings in this 14-part series organized by Sports Values Inc. (SVI) and sponsored by Petron Corp.

Ong has an eight-leg of 60 points, 21 points ahead of Kookie Ramirez of Petron-SRA in the overall standings.

A distant third was Nilo Pazcoguin of Caltex-tom's Asia with 31 points.

For inquiries, call Estela Casibang of SVI at tel. 671-6926.

SPORTSWATCH

Zed-Gulf tries again; Potenciano ready

THE LEADING team in the Subic Grand Prix Production series, the Zed-Gulf Oil-MP Turbo team, is raring to repeat its superb results in the last round. Supported by the world's largest mobile Internet company and one of the oldest lubricant specialists in world, the Zed-Gulf Oil team is hoping for a wet race to extend its lead. The team also enjoys support from Francisco Motors Corp., Abante, Rota Wheels, GomaKing Trading, Yehey.com, AER Engines, BLTBCo, Bavarian Machine Works and race specialist MP Turbo. Baguio-driver and the team's most successful protégé, Carlos Anton, and celebrity driver Monching Gutierrez will lead the assault in the Production and Challenge Cup races, respectively. Team captain Mike Potenciano will try to win his first race in the Super Saloon class after breaking his string of bad luck by placing third in the last round.

Glutaphos, other chessfests set

IT'S all systems go for the staging of the P2.2M Glutaphos Philippines Chess Grand Prix at the Sugarland Hotel in Bacolod City on July 7 to 31. The tournament is sponsored by Pascual Laboratories Inc. makers of Glutaphos the brain vitamin, in cooperation with the Department of Interior and Local Government, Bacolod City Local Government, Sugarland Hotel and Negros Navigation. In Quezon City, the July edition of the Executive Chess Days at the Grandmasters Café will begin at 1 p.m. today. Tomorrow, the NCFP holds the Non-Master event at 9:30 a.m. at the Egel's Sizzling House, 22 Matalino St., (beside Allied Bank, at the back of QC Hall), Diliman, Quezon City. Also tomorrow, the Little Chess League begins at 12:30 p.m. at the 2/F Center Mall Greenhills Shopping Center in San Juan.

Mickelson 1 shot behind unknown

LEMONT, Illinois —Phil Mickelson, who won the Greater Hartford Open last weekend, was bogey-free, shooting a 6-under 66 to finish one back in the first round of the Western Open. Little-known Mark Wiebe was ahead with a 65. Tiger Woods struggled with a 73 and then broke a club on the 18th. "I told my wife, when I'm playing well, I know it," said Wiebe, who hasn't won a PGA Tour event since 1986. "I just feel like I'm playing really good golf right now." Said Mickelson: "The goal is really just to get into contention, not to shoot way up the leaderboard," Mickelson said. "The goal is to have a shot on Sunday. This is a nice start."

Ty stages Charlie derby

COCKFIGHTING at its best will be seen today in the Charlie 4-Cock Derby at the Roligon Mega Cockpit in Parañaque City. Sponsored by Lakpue Drug Inc., the event is hosted by Charlie Gayoso, a popular cocker in Marikina, Pasig, Sta. Ana, Sta. Quiteria and Cavite. Cockers like Boy Lechon, Emilio Chua, brothers Relly and Tos Teyes, Dennis del Rosario, Carding Ng, Lito Orillosa, Rudy Salud and William Go are expected to participate. Promoter Danny (Showdown) Ty, known for his slogan "Bilis laban, bilis bayad," said that weights between 1.8 and 2.4 kg must be submitted from 6 to 11 a.m. Other 4-cock derbies scheduled at the Roligon are: July 14-Tukaan hosted by Emoy Gorgonia, July 24-Peter Macky by Peter Macky (Ronnel Tañada) & Tiling Capitan and July 31-Goldcup by William "Goldcup" Go.

RACING TIPS

AT SAN LAZARO
BY MR. 999

Race 1—1. Real Charm 2. Yallah's Princess 3. Read My Mind 4. Scream for Chance

Race 2—1. Prince of Africa 2. Khazan 3. Dynamite Jack 4. Redding Drive

Race 3—1. Majestic Ruler 2. Puzzling Friend 3. King Aldrin 4. Rainmaker

Race 4—1. King Cobra 2. Lucky Fil 3. Vinfa's Pride 4. Rising Fast

Race 5—1. Aim and Fire/Sis Boom Bah 2. Silver Rose 3. Heredera

Race 6—1. My Indy 2. High Fidelity 3. Give and Take/Boy Yoski 4. Very Sharp

Race 7—1. Gold Edition 2. Sonata 3. The Fox

Race 8—1. Baby Maxxine 2. Royal Harvest 3. Imus Emperor

Race 9—1. Sir Olizon 2. Pro Bono 3. Sweet Justice 4. Perfect Gift

Race 10—1. Regalberto 2. Dragon Strike 3. Brazen Truth

Race 11—1. Portal Dancer 2. Like A Prince 3. Alleviator 4. Fire Mouth

Race 12—1. Golden Indy/Adrenalin 2. Forthefirsttime 3. Victoria Scarlet 4. Arch Rival

Race 13—1. Fair Warning 2. Knows Love 3. Altron 4. Nagniningning

On July 7 & 8, 2001 it will be worth taking a closer look!

The 2001 models from BMW
From 9 am on Saturday July 7th and Sunday July 8th, we invite you to view the latest BMW models on our open house day. Come see, feel and test drive the latest generation of sports saloons, coupes and roadsters. We offer attractive finance conditions and accept your current vehicle as part payment at maximum price!

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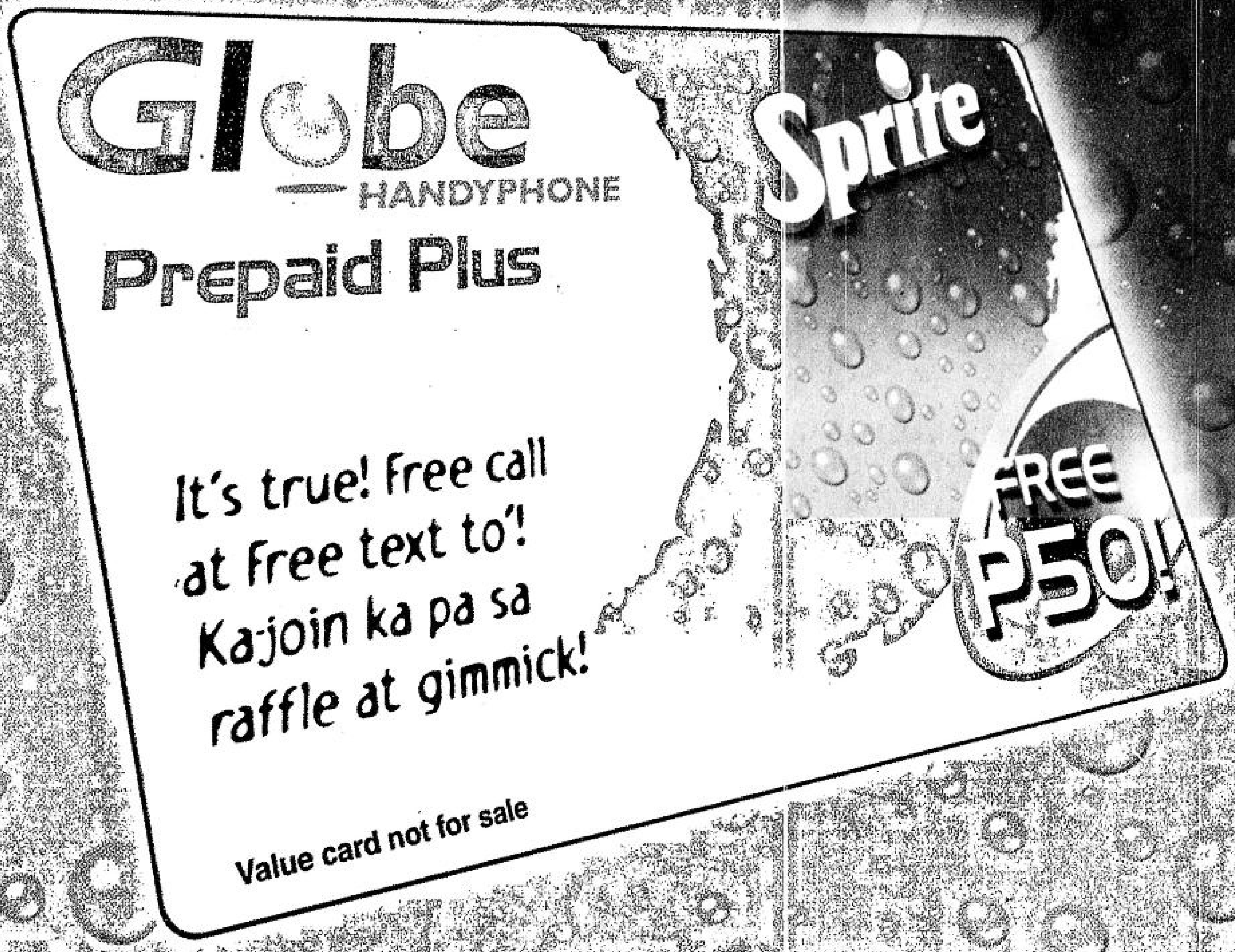
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Cop nabbed for robbing cabbie A18

METRO

LOUIE C. CAMINO, Editor

US Embassy could be hiding Bacalla slay suspect—Perez

BY ALCUIN PAPA

JUSTICE Secretary Hernando Perez yesterday accused the US Embassy of harboring an American fugitive wanted for the kidnapping and killing of Mark Henry Bacalla on May 3.

Perez told reporters that suspect Onofre Surat, a naturalized American of Filipino descent, could be inside the US Embassy on Roxas Boulevard in Manila.

"It is possible that (Surat) is under the custody of (US) embassy officials because they were the last ones with him (before he escaped)," Perez said.

Perez then called on American embassy officials to surrender Surat "in case he shows up at the embassy" and to not grant him any protection.

But a spokesman for the US Embassy, Frank Jenista, denied they were protecting Surat and said "the United States has no motivation for assisting an indicted criminal to escape justice."

"We hope that Surat will be found or that he surrender to face the very serious charges against him," Jenista said. "We have been cooperating closely with Philippine officials in the case and we can say the US government is not assisting an indicted criminal."

On June 29, Surat was picked up by US Embassy officials Maryanne Caparas and Michael Anthony after he complained that he was beaten up by jail officials.

Upon request of the embassy, Surat was scheduled for a physical examination at the East Avenue Medical Center accompanied by the two US officials.

US EMBASSY/ A18

ROGER MARGALLO

NATALIA IN MANILA

Natalia Oreiro of Argentina—movie, telenovela and recording superstar in many parts of the Spanish-speaking world—arrived in Manila Thursday night to promote the smash hit TV series "Monica Brava" which GMA Network will start airing soon.

Death of Jollibee customer due to mom's suicide try, says food firm

AN APPARENT suicide attempt by a young mother and not the food products of one of the country's biggest fast-food chains caused the death on Thursday of a 6-year-old boy, according to the food firm.

The boy, Raul Sabala III, died while undergoing treatment at the Ospital Ng Maynila. His mother Rosalina, 30, and brothers Ramon Roberto, 10; and Richard, 8; are still undergoing treatment after they lost consciousness at the Jollibee outlet at the Rockwell mall in Makati.

Yesterday, Claro F. Certeza, vice president for corporate affairs of the Jollibee Foods Corp., said in a statement a suicide note was found inside Sabala's bag by administration personnel who came to assist her and her three sons after they collapsed inside the store.

Police records showed that Sabala and her sons walked into the store about 4:30 p.m. on Thursday and ordered a combo meal of spaghetti and hamburger. They then proceeded to the dining area and began eating.

DEATH/ A18

Schools brace for more protests against ROTC

BY CHRISTIAN V. ESGUERRA

SCHOOLS in Metro Manila are bracing for more protest actions as thousands of students and members of militant groups calling for the abolition of the Reserve Officers Training Corps threatened to stage another mass walkout tomorrow.

University of Santo Tomas officials said they deployed more security guards to prevent an outbreak of violence.

Norberto Brosas, detachment commander of the UST security force, said he has received reports that some groups were planning to start violence in the walkout tomorrow.

The school's 92-man security force will be augmented by the ROTC military police, which will serve as the second line of defense, Brosas said.

"We will maintain maximum tolerance," Brosas

SCHOOLS/ A18

Wazzzzup?

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BUMA 9595 Kamagong St. Makati	FIGURE 8 K.O. JONES	RETROSPECT JULY 11/896.1939
Cowboy Grill Brgy Almanza, Las Pinas	THINKERS w/ JOGRAD FEEDBACK	NO ENTRANCE FEE ☎801.7644
Cowboy Grill 1190 Arqueza St., Mabini	J BROTHERS MR. ROXY/HIMIG	P 250 CONSUMABLE 9-3 AM/525.1474
Cowboy Grill 431 Remedios St., Malate	HOMOSAPIENS STAY TUNED	P 250 CONSUMABLE 9-2 AM/521.8143
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KAMPO 2088 #47 West Avenue Q.C.	GLADYS & D' BOXERS D'BOSS/GROOVE	P 250 CONSUMABLE 373.5110/373.7181
Examiner's Lite n'Live #52 Examiner St. Q.C.	VANNA VANNA L.O.C	P 150 CONSUMABLE 373.2221/373.7183
Music Warehouse Infront of Central Market	WOLFGANG SLAPSHOCK	SPECIAL GUESTS 735.1280/735.1405
Padi's Point Mindave Mindanao Ave. cor. Cong'l, Q.C.	POP CYCLES MYMP/PARK AVENUE	1ST FLR. FREE ENTRANCE 2ND FLR. P 200 CONS.
Tia Maria's Jupiter St., Makati City	VERSE 2	NO ENTRANCE FEE ☎890.4735
Tropical Forest Café-Grill-Restaurant TM Kalaw Luneta Manila	PART-E	PICA-PICA PLATTER P200/MON-FRI
OTHER PLACES		
Jer's Real Calamba, Laguna	ALTER EGO (FULL FORCE)	P 50 ENTRANCE ☎(0917)378.7303
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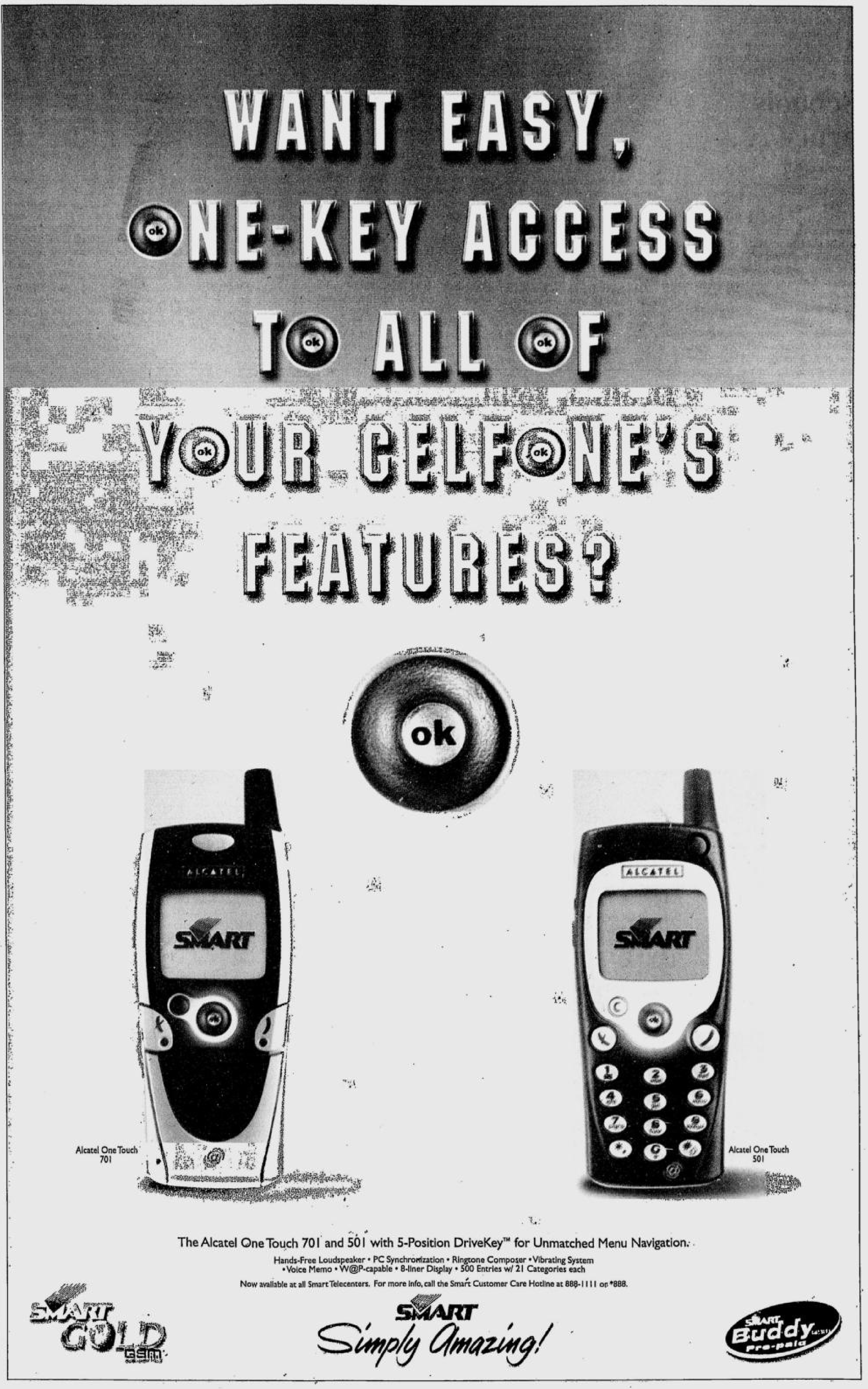
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Protesters 'paint' Shell building red

MEMBERS of the militant youth organization Anakbayan yesterday morning held a lightning rally and vandalized the Shell Philippines building in Makati City with grease and red paint to protest the latest oil price increase.

The rally surprised the security personnel of the multi-national oil firm and even the members of the Makati City police despite an earlier order by Southern Police District Office Director Senior Supt. Jose Gutierrez for lawmen to remain vigilant in guarding the offices of the country's top three oil firms, which are all located in Makati.

Aside from the protesters spraying the Shell building facade along Valero Street with grease and red paint, the 10-minute rally was generally peaceful. Several teenage speakers took turns in lambasting Shell and other multinational oil firms.

The demonstrators left shortly before noon following the arrival of Makati policemen in full riot gear.

Nelson F. Flores

Schools brace . . .

(From page A17)

said. "We don't want anybody to get hurt."

Officials of other colleges and universities have also tightened security after thousands of cadets boycotted the regular ROTC exercises in the last two Sundays.

Protesters vowed to stage a boycott every week until the "corrupt and irrelevant" ROTC program has been abolished.

Cadets are soliciting at least one million signatures which they will present to President Macapagal-Arroyo when she delivers her state of the nation address on the opening of the 12th Congress on July 23.

The campaign was sparked by the abduction and murder of Mark Welson Chua, a 19-year-old UST cadet who had exposed the alleged anomalies in his school's ROTC program.

Chua's decomposing body was fished out of the Pasig River on March 18. His expose led to the relief of UST commandant Army Maj. Demy Tejares and other ROTC officials.

Last Sunday, thousands of cadets in Metro Manila walked out of the field and trooped to Mendiola to protest what they called "a senseless student military training course."

However, Chua's father Welson appealed to protesters not to press for the abolition of the ROTC and instead, to call for its reform.

But most cadets want Congress to immediately repeal the law which require students to take up ROTC.

In UST, hundreds of cadets staged a boycott amid tight security. They occupied the university grandstand and burned a pair of ROTC uniforms in protest.

When security men tried to contain the protesters, several students were allegedly hurt, including Janssen Dangzalan, 19, who claimed a guard grabbed him by the neck and dragged him to a trash bin.

But the UST security chief also claimed he and his men were kicked and punched by rowdy protesters when they tried to drive them away.

Brosas said he will make sure that last Sunday's violence will not happen again tomorrow. He has already briefed his men to be on the lookout for militant groups that would try to sneak into the campus tomorrow.

Cop nabbed for robbing cabbie

BY JEROME ANING

POLICE arrested a Quezon City policeman in Tondo, Manila after a taxi driver identified him as the man who held him up yesterday morning.

Suspect PO1 Ramiro de los Reyes, 31, of the Central Police District Station 3 in Sangandaan, Quezon City, was also tagged as the suspect in six other taxi holdup incidents in Tondo and Pasay City, said Supt. Danilo Pelisco, Western Police District Station 1 commander.

He said the suspect boarded the taxi of Victor Gayoma, 31, on Dimasalang Street in Sampaloc about 11:45 p.m. yesterday.

Gayoma told police that the suspect, who was in Type B police uniform, drew out his service firearm, cocked it and poked it at his ribs.

"I only want your money; your life is yours," Gayoma quoted PO1 Delos Reyes as saying.

Police said De los Reyes took about P500 of Gayoma's earnings.

After the holdup, Gayoma asked help from a barangay kagawad in the area, who contacted the nearby Pritil police community precinct.

Policemen led by Insp. Edward Villena boarded Gayoma's cab and toured vicinity.

Gayoma spotted the suspect walking along Coral Street in Tondo, about 12:45 p.m. yesterday, police said. The suspect was then arrested and brought to Station 1.

Police also identified the other victims of Delos Reyes as Noli Noveno who lost P700 on July 5; Benigno Galoso who was robbed last July 2 of P1,500; and Ernesto Manguera who lost on July 2, P1,500. The three were also robbed in Tondo.

In Pasay, Ernesto Villar lost P700 to the suspect on July 3; and Ferdinand Turim, P1,500 on June 30.

Lacson gets back at me

ON TARGET

Ramon Tulfo

ABOARD Super Ferry 12—I'm writing this piece aboard one of the country's biggest and most luxurious inter-island ship. It's 2 p.m. and in two hours my crew and I at "Isumbong mo kay Tulfo" will be landing in Cebu City to shoot some scenes for my program, which will be re-launched in RPN 9 on July 21.

As I opened my cell phone a few minutes ago, I received an urgent text message from my Inquirer colleague and compadre, Armand Nocum. The message said that former Philippine National Police chief and Senator Panfilo Lacson said over radio dzBB that I received money from his predecessor, Robert Lastimoso.

Had I been in Manila, I would have called up the radio station to deny Lacson's allegation.

* * *

Armand quoted Lacson as saying that there was a list of journalists who received money from Lastimoso, then PNP chief, and that my name was in that list.

He even specified the amount in the list that I supposedly received from Lastimoso: P250,000.

Lacson qualified, though, that he didn't know whether the amount reached me.

That did it! Lacson had no firsthand knowledge that I received the amount. Yet, he accused me of being on the take from Lastimoso.

* * *

I was expecting Lacson to get back at me for that piece about him in this column last Tuesday. I told you I know him that well. In Tuesday's column, I said that he was capable of the crimes being imputed to him.

* * *

I have really arrived because Lacson is now picking a fight with me.

But he is diverting from the main issue: whether he was involved in kidnappings, drug trafficking, abductions and murders of innocent citizens who crossed him and his former boss, President Erap.

The noose is tightening on Lacson and he's desperate.

* * *

Talking about intelligence fund, the reason the chair and the general manager of the Philippine Charity Sweepstakes Office (PCSO) were reported receiving P10.7 million and P10.5 million, respectively, was that their intelligence and discretionary funds were counted.

The PCSO chair receives P713,000 in salary yearly, while the PCSO general manager receives P550,000 annually. They each receive P5 million in intelligence fund and another P5 million in discretionary fund yearly, for a total of P10 million.

The intelligence fund, according to PCSO officials, is spent to safeguard the integrity of the PCSO games like sweepstakes and lotto. The discretionary fund is spent on charity and hospitalization of indigent patients.

The present PCSO chair and general manager reduced their salaries even before the hullabaloo about the high salaries of officials in government firms.

The PCSO chair and general manager during the time of President Erap was receiving P1.11 million and P886,000 annual salaries, respectively.

* * *

Roberto Lastimoso, a member of Philippine Military Academy Class of 1967, was kicked out as PNP chief allegedly because of Lacson's character assassination of him.

Lacson had accused his former boss of coddling an alleged drug lord from Cebu. What Lacson deliberately omitted from his accusation was that Lastimoso didn't know that the guy he had befriended was a drug trafficker. If Lastimoso had a shortcoming, it was that he didn't choose his friends.

Should I be grateful that Lacson made a qualification on his accusation about me? He wanted to look magnanimous so he said he didn't know whether I received the money or not.

* * *

If Lacson wants to play fair with me—as he probably wants the public to know that he doesn't fight foul—why doesn't he also reveal the names of reporters and columnists who are on that supposed list?

Since he has come out with a supposed list, why doesn't he also name the other journalists on that list?

* * *

If that list really exists, it could be that the names in that list were there to justify the expenses taken from the intelligence fund of the Philippine National Police.

Although the intelligence fund is not subject to audit, there is still a need to put down how much was spent for which project or which individual. Most of the time such projects didn't take place or some individuals in the list were non-existent. If the individuals did exist, chances are they didn't know their names were used.

Yes, sir, the intelligence fund is a source of graft for some top government officials because they don't have to account for how the fund was spent. All one has to do is say that one spent the intelligence fund on such and such project or this and that individual and the Commission on Audit would take one's word for it.

Take a look at the expenses of the intelligence fund of any government agency and you'll know what I mean.

Death of Jollibee customer . . .

(From page A17)

Other diners said that a few minutes later, the youngest child collapsed, but the mother ignored him and continued to send a text message on her cell phone.

Sabala and her two other sons soon also lost consciousness, and store personnel immediately went to aid her and the children. The store personnel brought them to Ospital ng Makati.

But no other diner at the hamburger restaurant suffered the same symptoms, Jollibee said.

In his statement, Certeza said the security group of Rockwell found a suicide note in Sabala's bag, but turned it over to police.

Makati police investigator PO2 Juvenal Barbosa said there is reason to believe that Sabala was trying to kill herself and her sons. He said the suicide note written on the back of one of her wedding pictures said that if ever she would commit suicide, she would bring her children with her.

Barbosa said that Sabala must have planned to kill herself after a series of quarrels with her husband.

A Jollibee representative was on hand to assist the husband of Mrs. Sabala, Certeza said in his statement. Company personnel and resources were also made available to buy medicines and to assist the Sabalas, Certeza added.

"We hope that Mrs. Sabala and her remaining children recover soon," Certeza said. "This incident is clearly a tragic case of suicide but we will do what we can to help ease the grief of the family of Mrs. Sabala."

Also yesterday, Makati City health authorities launched an investigation of the apparent poisoning.

Dr. Ramoncito Coronel, officer in charge of the Ospital ng Makati, said the investigation would determine what killed Raul III and whether he died from food or chemical poisoning.

"We still do not know what killed him or caused the sickness of his mother and other brothers although they are all apparently victims of some kind of poisoning," Coronel said.

He said all of the victims showed symptoms of poisoning like vomiting, headaches and dizziness.

Coronel added that after several hours of intensive treatment, the medical condition of Raul III deteriorated, but Rosalina's and Richard's condition stabilized. Ramon Roberto, however, is still in critical condition.

Coronel said food samples from Jollibee were also taken to determine whether they were contaminated.

Coronel said they would make the result of their investigation available next week. ***With a report from Nelson F. Flores***

US Embassy could be hiding. . .

(From page A17)

But Perez alleged that the embassy officials forced Surat's jail guards to leave the examination room. This enabled the suspect to escape through a window.

"The problem is we can't file charges against them (embassy personnel) because they might invoke diplomatic immunity," Perez said. "So we're asking (US Embassy officials) to surrender him.

"(Surat) is an American, and he was accompanied by American officials when he escaped. The most logical thing to do for an American is to get in touch with his embassy."

Perez said Surat had earlier called the DOJ saying he was willing to surrender, "but that was several days ago."

Police have since launched a manhunt for Surat and the DOJ has put him on the hold departure list.

Bacalla, son of the late Quezon City Judge Marciano Bacalla, was invited by Surat, a businessman and a friend of the family, to allegedly celebrate the victim's birthday.

But when Bacalla was about to go home, Surat's cohorts abducted the victim and demanded ransom for his release.

Bacalla's mother paid P400,000 in ransom, unaware that the suspects had already killed her son.

Since then, four suspects in the killing of Bacalla have been arrested. Three of them have been charged in court, but the date of their trial has not yet been set.

With reports from TJ Burgonio, AFP

Korean is latest victim in 'carnap capital'

BY PHILIP C. TUBEZA

A KOREAN tourist this week became the latest addition to the growing list of car theft victims in Quezon City.

Eui Chul Hwang, of 118 K-6, Barangay East Kamias, Quezon City, lost a 1999 maroon Kia Pregio van (WMY-242), which was registered in the name of another Korean living in Sun Valley, Parañaque, according to the Anonas police station.

The victim told police that the van was parked outside his temporary residence in East Kamias when it was stolen.

Hwang said he left the car unattended between midnight of July 4 and 5 a.m. the next day.

The van was gone when he went to check on it on Thursday morning, he said.

The Central Police District (CPD) tactical operations center has sent an alarm not only to all the 11 stations of the CPD but also to the four other police districts in Metro Manila.

Quezon City has gained notoriety as Metro Manila's "carnap capital."

The victims of a recent rash of car thefts in the city included actors, a basketball player and a reporter.

Like Hwang, the cars of many of the other victims were stolen just outside their houses.

The CPD leadership, however, said more car theft cases are reported in Quezon City because it accounts for about one-fourth of Metro Manila's land area.

The CPD has also reshuffled its officers and men and has vowed to increase police visibility to deter criminals.

Taguig robbed during Papa's last days, says Tinga

BY NELSON F. FLORES

THE TAGUIG town hall was robbed of office equipment during the last days of the administration of former mayor Ricardo Papa, according to newly elected Mayor Sigfrido Tinga.

Tinga revealed this yesterday as he ordered the local police to investigate the alleged robbery. He said that among the items stolen from the town hall are computers, fax and Xerox machines, office tables, chairs and airconditioners.

"Even kitchen items like stoves and refrigerators were taken by the robbers," Tinga said.

He said he received reports that people close to Papa were responsible for the robbery. He added that the criminal act was apparently done to make it very difficult for the new administration to discharge its duties.

He also cited the accounts of witnesses that some of Papa's men even urinated inside the mayor's office as a final show of contempt.

Tinga also accused Papa of illegally donating municipal vehicles to Taguig barangays. He said the pro-Papa council sanctioned the disposal of the municipal vehicles by passing an ordinance to that effect on June 27, three days before Tinga took over.

Tinga said the disposal of the vehicles, even if sanctioned by an ordinance, is illegal according to the Local Government Code. He said his lawyers are considering the possibility of filing criminal and administrative charges against Papa and some members of the municipal council.

Tinga also said his administration has cancelled all midnight appointments made and contracts entered into by the Papa administration.

Tinga said he has ordered a review of an earlier contract between the municipality and a company engaged in the setting up of casinos. He said a 5.1-hectare land of the municipal government in Fort Bonifacio was allocated for the building of a casino that would be run by a private firm.

"That firm managed to secure a questionable lease on that prime property for 75 years for only P20 million annually," Tinga said.

Arab arrested for card fraud

BY CHRISTIAN V. ESGUERRA

MALABON police yesterday arrested an Arab who allegedly had been duping businessmen into giving him authentic pre-paid cellular phone cards in exchange for fake ones.

Authorities identified the suspect as Ali Ahmed Al Rashed, 38, of Engracia Street, Ermita, Manila.

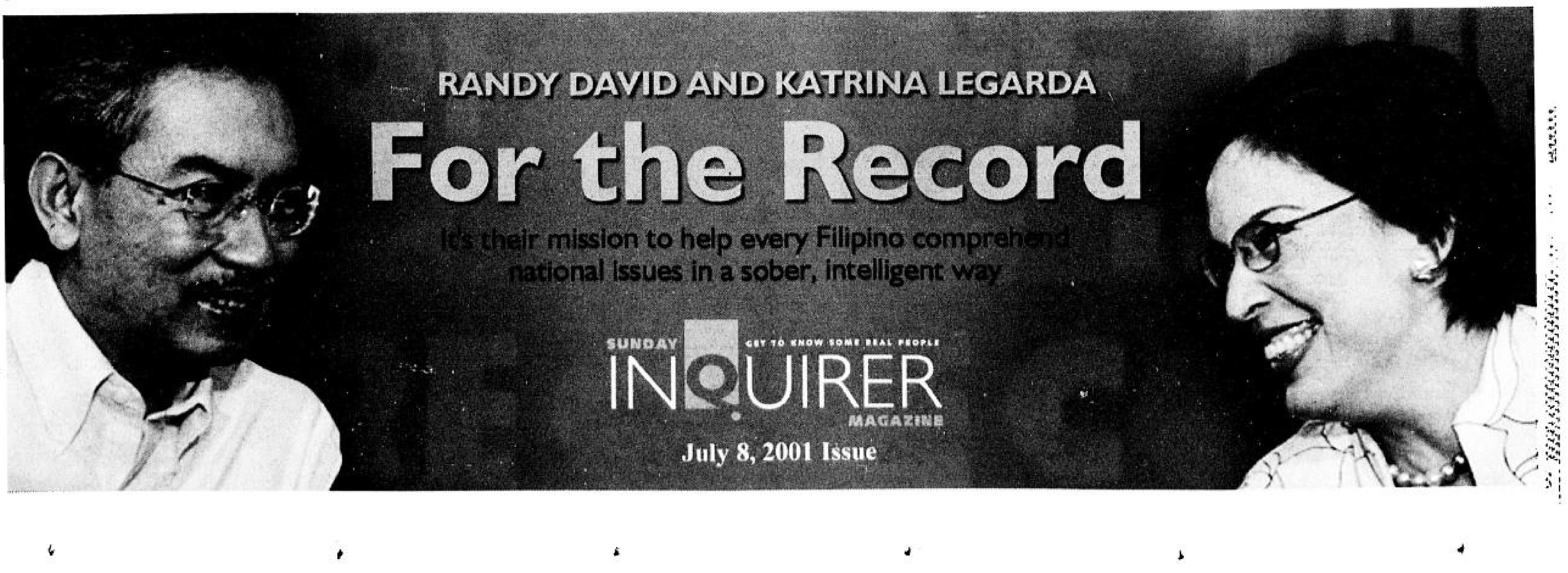
Rashed was arrested after he allegedly took Globe prepaid cards from Andrew Go, 29, of MacArthur Highway, Barangay Potrero, Malabon.

Rashed bought prepaid cards from Go, but asked the latter if he could pay with a credit card since he had no cash, said investigator PO2 Jorge de la Cruz.

Go asked Rashed to return the prepaid cards, De la Cruz said.

But Rashed allegedly gave him prepaid cards with tampered personal identification numbers (PINs), police said.

Malabon police found several authentic and tampered call cards from the suspect.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SUNDAY
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MAGAZINE
July 8, 2001 Issue

7 men rob RCBC Paco

By Jerome Aning

SEVEN armed men held up the Rizal Commercial Banking Corp. branch in Paco, Manila yesterday afternoon, taking away about P50,000 cash and two cell phones from the tellers.

The heist took place around 1:45 p.m. at the RCBC branch at the corner of Pedro Gil, Union and Peñafrancia streets, barely five hours after the launch of the Western Police District's police beat patrol program, which was attended by Interior Secretary Jose Lina and National Capital Regional Police Office chief Deputy Dir. Romeo Peña.

A Metro Manila-wide alert has been issued for the suspect's getaway vehicle, a gray Mitsubishi Adventure (NCF-424 or WCF-424).

WPD director Senior Supt. Nicolas Pasiños Jr. said two of the suspects first chatted with the bank guards, identified only as Torreon and Balwit, both of the FCA Security Agency.

As the five other suspects, all bearing M-16 rifles, appeared, the first two disarmed the guards of their .38-caliber and shotgun, which they poked at the guards themselves.

The five men entered the bank, declared a holdup and told the tellers to give up whatever cash they had in their drawers. On their way out, the suspects also grabbed the cell phones of two employees.

Police sources, quoting a teller, said the suspects came from the Visayas. One of the holdup men, when he ordered a teller to place the money in his bag, reportedly said "*Lagi, lagi*" which means "Put it here, put it here" in Hiligaynon or Cebuano.

The robbery was over in less than 30 seconds. No guns were fired. The robbers' getaway vehicle took the westbound lane of Pedro Gil toward the South Luzon Expressway.

Around 9 a.m. at the Robinson's Place-Manila Midtown Hotel area, Lina, Pena and Pasinos launched the WPD Police Patrol Beat Program.

5 drug suspects nabbed in 'drug-free' SJ

By Agnes E. Donato

POLICE on Thursday afternoon arrested five suspected dealers of illegal drugs in San Juan, which has prided itself on being "drug-free."

The suspects were identified as Daniel Padua, Samuel Padua and Elmer Reyes, of Col. Ver Street; Augusto Secretaryo of Mascardo Street, all in San Juan; and Joel Canete of Sangandaan, Novaliches, Quezon City.

Supt. Rodrigo de Gracia, San Juan police chief, presented the suspects to newly installed Mayor Joseph Victor "JV" Ejercito at the municipal hall.

On his first day in office on Monday, Ejercito gave the Malacañang-appointed police chief and other division chiefs from his predecessor's administration six months to prove their worth.

The suspects were arrested in Barangay Little Baguio at about 5 p.m. Thursday. They were allegedly caught in the act selling shabu.

Police said they recovered drug paraphernalia from the suspects, who were also accused of sniffing the illegal drugs aside from selling them.

Ejercito's half-brother, former Mayor Jinggoy Estrada, had declared San Juan a "drug-free" town when he was still its chief executive.

Estrada is now detained on plunder charges, along with his father, ousted President Joseph Estrada.

De Gracia ordered his men to intensify their information gathering for the identification of drug lairs and suspects in San Juan.

"San Juan shall continue to be the model of the anti-drug campaign in Metro Manila and we shall revitalize our police anti-drug operation team," he said.

'Valle Verde' suspect pleads not guilty

By Agnes E. Donato

ONE of the members of the so-called "Valle Verde Gang" yesterday pleaded innocent of the charges of possession of illegal drugs filed against him.

The arraignment of John Umale, 32, came almost a year after his arrest on Aug. 7, 2001, along with brothers Joselito and Anthony Manlongat, for alleged car theft.

Umale was arraigned on charges of violating Republic Act No. 6425, or the anti-illegal drugs law, for allegedly possessing .46 grams of cocaine when he was arrested by members of the now-defunct Presidential Anti-Organized Crime Task Force (PAOCTF).

The arraignment was originally scheduled for Aug. 17, 2000 but Umale failed to appear in court.

Judge Esperanza Fabon-Victorino of the Pasig City Regional Trial Court Branch 157 scheduled the pre-trial of the case for Aug. 29.

But some sectors believe the prosecution might encounter problems in locating and presenting its police witnesses, as they may have been returned to their mother units following the abolition of the PAOCTF.

Meanwhile, the car theft charges filed against the rest of the members of Valle Verde Gang are still pending with the Pasig RTC.

The members of the group, which was allegedly headed by a son of Gen. Florencio Fianza, were arrested during the alleged pay-off for the return of a stolen BMW.

Noisy drinker found beaten up to death

By Philip C. Tubeza

RONNIE S. Dumaguita, 26, was beaten up to death allegedly because he got too noisy during a drinking bout in his house in Quezon City.

Dumaguita, of 237 JP Rizal St. in Barangay San Roque, Project 4, Quezon City, was found dead in his room after he had a five-hour drinking spree with friends, said investigator SPO1 Ramon Fernandez, of the Central Police District-Criminal Investigation Unit.

The victim had bruises in the face, legs and stomach, Fernandez said.

He said police were looking at the possibility that a housemate might have gotten angry at Dumaguita for holding a drinking spree in their house.

Fernandez said Dumaguita and his friends Pedro Orosa and Melody Mesa had a boisterous drinking session from 2 p.m. to 7 p.m. Thursday.

Mesa and Orosa later left Dumaguita alone in his room, Fernandez said.

Minutes later, Dumaguita fought with an unidentified person who complained about the noise during the drinking bout. But the two did not come to blows after a neighbor pacified them.

Later that night, Dumaguita's housemates heard a loud thud in his room, Fernandez said.

A man called up the Project 4 police station to report that there was a dead body in Dumaguita's room.

'Customers' turn out to be robbers

By Philip C. Tubeza

ATTENDANT Jesus C. Valdez was surprised when two armed men suddenly came out of their car and announced a holdup at a Caltex gas station in Quezon City Thursday night.

The two men had just paid their bill after having their tank filled up.

But Valdez got more surprised when the armed men robbed only him and not the gas station.

Valdez, 23, of the Caltex gas station at 773 Aurora Boulevard in Barangay Immaculate Concepcion, Quezon City, told investigators that the two armed men fled on board a white Toyota Corolla (UBW-320).

Members of the Kamuning police station said there were two other men on board the vehicle.

Valdez lost P2,500 in cash and his gold-plated wrist watch, also worth P2,500, police said.

Old woman arrested

By Christian V. Esguerra

POLICE yesterday arrested a 67-year-old woman who was sentenced five years ago to eight-year imprisonment for robbery in Caloocan City.

Members of the Station Investigation and Intelligence Bureau arrested Nieves Palapal, 67, in her house on 9th Street, 5th Avenue, Grace Park, Caloocan.

Palapal had been the subject of a police manhunt since she was convicted of robbery in 1996.

A court found her guilty of robbing her neighbor Vicenta Baluran, 77, of P11,500 worth of personal items on April 20, 1992.

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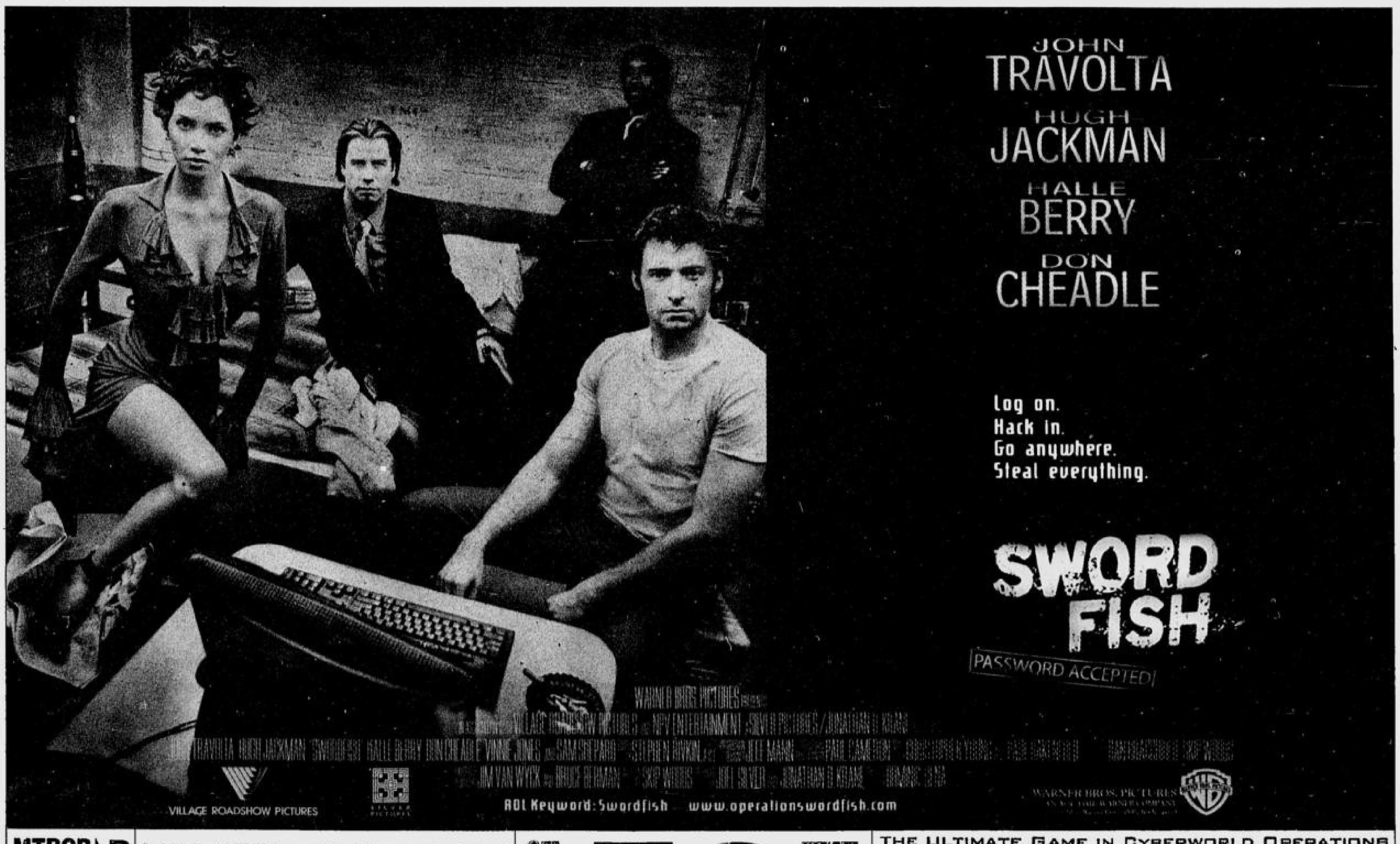

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Death during fire drill

By Alcuin Papa

A FIRE drill at the Department of Justice on Padre Faura Street in Manila yesterday turned into a real tragedy after one of the DOJ employees died during the drill.

The employee was identified as Virgilio Rivera, 51, a phone switchboard repairman who was also the DOJ's chief fire marshal.

Rivera was said to have been suffering from high blood pressure.

Around 2 p.m. yesterday, the DOJ conducted a fire drill as part of the "National Disaster Preparedness Week." The DOJ also decided to fumigate its surroundings during the fire drill.

As the thick fumes entered the building, Rivera, who had been manning the switchboard on the ground floor, apparently inhaled the fumes.

Witnesses said Rivera collapsed, hitting his nose and jaw on the floor and causing a deep cut on his mouth.

Because of the thick smoke, it took some time until Rivera was spotted on the floor.

Other employees brought Rivera to the Philippine General Hospital, but it took some time for the vehicle carrying Rivera to leave the DOJ premises because a fire truck was blocking the exit.

Rivera died around 4 p.m. due to complications from hypertension.

The victim had been an employee of the DOJ for 23 years.

Muntinlupa launches oil painting contest

MUNTINLUPA Mayor Jaime Fresnedi yesterday announced the launch of the city's first oil painting competition, exhibit and sale to be held today from 2 to 5 p.m. at the Madrigal Arts Center.

The competition is sponsored by the Muntinlupa Historical Commission (MHC). The theme of the contest is "Muntinlupa: Kahapon, Ngayon at Bukas."

The competition is open to all Filipino citizens who can depict artistically the history of Muntinlupa.

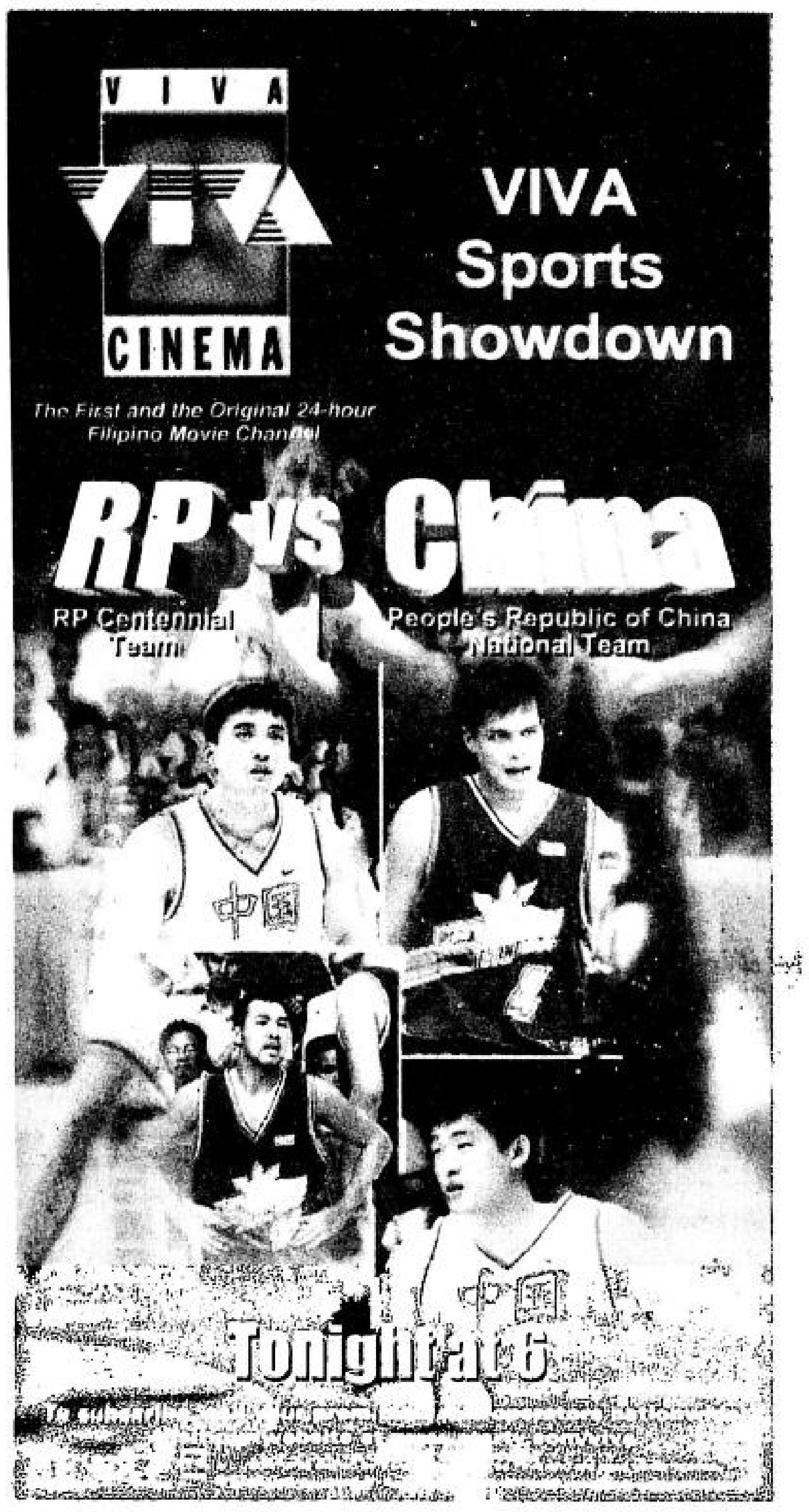
The grand prize winner will receive P50,000 and with be the 1st Muntinlupa City National Open Art Exhibit Champion. The second prize winner will receive P30,000 and the third prize winner will receive P20,000. Five honorable mention winners will win P8,000 each.

Submission of entries will be on Sept. 29-30, from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. at Madrigal Arts Center at the Alabang Town Center.

For details, call 543-0820 (Fe D. Servida) or 543-0804 (Glenda Zamora).

ILLUSTRATED MEN ROGER MARGALLO

Ninoy Aquino International Airport intelligence agent Rudy David (right) questions three heavily tattooed Japanese suspected of being Yakuza members after their arrival in Manila on board a Japan Airlines flight. The three men were immediately sent back to Japan.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Saturday, July 7, 2001
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1st Reading: *Gen 27:1-5, 15-29*

Gospel: *Mt 9:14-17*

The disciples of John came to him with the question, "How is it that we and the Pharisees fast on many occasions, but not your disciples?"

Jesus answered them, "How can you expect wedding guests to mourn as long as the bridegroom is with them? Time will come when the bridegroom will be taken away from them, then they will fast.

No one patches an old coat with a piece of unshrunken cloth, for the patch will shrink and tear an even bigger hole in the coat. Besides you don't put new wine in old wineskins. If you do, the wineskins will burst and the wine be spilt. No, you put new wine in fresh skins; then both are preserved."

Commentary:

Jesus came to inaugurate a new era, and a new way of God relating with his people. This new era is often described as the wedding of God with his people. It is a celebration of life, expressed in mutual love. It is a time of a new intimacy of God with his people; a time of grace. The New Testament writings describe it as a new stage of creation that calls for a radically new attitude in the lives of people. People are invited to opt for the new way of life inaugurated by Christ or face destruction. The examples at the end of the reading are clear.

Father, we thank you for renewing our lives every day. Grant that we may celebrate this gift in gratitude as your beloved children.

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SUPREME COURT DOCTRINES

REMEDIAL LAW (CIVIL PROCEDURE)—Final and executory judgments or orders—It is well-settled that judgments or orders become final and executory by operation of law and not by judicial declaration. Thus, finality of a judgment becomes a fact upon the lapse of the reglementary period of appeal if no appeal is perfected or motion for reconsideration or new trial is filed. The trial court need not even pronounce the finality of the order as the same becomes final by operation of law. In fact the trial court could not even validly entertain a motion for reconsideration filed after the lapse of the period for taking an appeal. As such, it is of no moment that the opposing party failed to object to the timeliness of the motion for reconsideration or that the court denied the same on grounds other than timeliness considering that at the time the motion was filed, the Order had already become final and executory. Being final and executory, the trial court can no longer alter, modify, or reverse the questioned order. The subsequent filing of the motion for reconsideration cannot disturb the finality of the judgment or order. [Citations omitted.] [Justice Gonzaga-Reyes, Testate Estate of Maria Manuel Vda. De Biascan v. Biascan, G.R. No. 138731, December 11, 2000]

Digest by R.B. Vera

FRESNEDI'S SECOND

Reelected Muntinlupa Mayor Jaime Fresnedi (right) takes his oath of office before Chief Justice Edilberto Sandival of the Second Division of the Sandiganbayan. Witnessing the oath taking are (from left) the mayor's son Jomari, mother Nana Loleng Fresnedi and wife Loretta.

REMULLA'S NEW ASSIGNMENT

Mayor Munding del Rosario (left) of Tanza, Cavite administers the oath of office to new Cavite Rep. Gilbert Remulla at the Island Cove resort in Binakayan town. The new congressman's father, former Cavite Gov. Johnny Remulla, watches the ceremony together with the new official's brother Jonvic who was elected vice governor of the province.

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2	SWORD FISH
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4	PANGAKO, IKAW LANG
5	PANINDA

New Divisoria Mall
CINEMA tel 244.4619

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2	PANINDA
3	SWORD FISH
4	RESERVE
5	RESERVE
6	ATLANTIS

Baclaran LRT
CINEMA tel 512.0115

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2	PANINDA
3	SWORD FISH
4	
5	

CINEMA 2000

Cinema 2000 Target Mall
(Sta. Rosa Laguna)
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2	PANGAKO, IKAW LANG
3 (DTS)	PANGAKO, IKAW LANG

Cinema 2000 Waltermart
(Calamba) tel (049) 545.7383

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2 (DTS)	ACCIDENTAL SPY
3 (DOLBY)	TOMB RAIDER
4	ATLANTIS

Llanas Cinema
(Alabang) tel 850.1276

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2	PANINDA
3	PANGAKO, IKAW LANG
4 (DTS)	ONE NIGHT AT MC COOL'S

Llanas MovieCity
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Olivarez Los Baños
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3	TOMB RAIDER

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2	MILA
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THEATER MOVIE GUIDE

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ALI MALL CINEPLEX-1	MILA
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-2	PANGAKO, IKAW LANG
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-3 (DDS)	TOMB RAIDER
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-4 (SDDS)	SWORD FISH
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-5 (DTS)	ATLANTIS
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-6 (DOLBY)	DUNGEONS & DRAGONS
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-7 (DOLBY)	ONE NIGHT AT MC COOL'S
FARMERS PLAZA-1 (DOLBY)	PANGAKO, IKAW LANG
FARMERS PLAZA-2 (DOLBY)	SWORD FISH
FIESTA CARNIVAL	CLOSED FOR RENOVATION
NEW FRONTIER	CLOSED FOR RENOVATION
MANILA	
EASTERN	
MAXIM	CLOSED
MIRAMAR	MADAME X / GIRLS
ODEON	SWORD FISH
ODEON-2	ONE NIGHT AT MC COOL'S
ROBEN	PANINDA
TANDEM-1	KASIBULAN
TANDEM-2	SIN OF THE NIGHT
TIMES	15 MIUTES / ATTACK FORCE
QUEZON CITY	
ACT-1	SENSUAL ISLAND
ACT-2	KAYA KO PERO MASAKIT
ACT-3	CLOSED
ACT-4	CLOSED
CORONET-2	ONE NIGHT AT MC COOL'S
QUEZON-1	PANINDA
REMAR	SWORD FISH
REMAR-2	PANINDA
CUBAO	
OCEAN SUPERAMA	BABAENG PUTIK
OCEAN CINEMA-A	PANABLA
OCEAN CINEMA-B	CRISELDA
MANDALUYONG CITY	
SHANGRI-LA PLAZA MALL	635-20-79 / 633-78-61 TO 70
CINEMA-1	SWORD FISH
CINEMA-2	ATLANTIS
CAINTA RIZAL	
STA. LUCIA EAST	(681-5401 TO 19)
CINEMA-1	PANGAKO, IKAW LANG
CINEMA-2	ACCIDENTAL SPY
CINEMA-3	MILA
CINEMA-4 (DOLBY DIGITAL)	TOMB RAIDER
CINEMA-5 (DTS)	PEARL HARBOR
CINEMA-6	EVOLUTION
CINEMA-7	CITY OF SINS
CINEMA-8	MILA
CINEMA-9 (DTS)	TOMB RAIDER
CINEMA-10 (DOLBY DIGITAL)	SWORD FISH
CINEMA-11 (SDDS)	ATLANTIS
CINEMA-12	DUNGEONS & DRAGONS
CINEMA-14	ONE NIGHT AT MC COOL'S
CINEMA-15	PANGAKO, IKAW LANG
LORES	
CINEMA-2	CLOSED
CINEMA-3	CLOSED
POWER PLANT CINEMA	
CINEMA-1	ONE NIGHT AT MC COOL'S
CINEMA-2	ATLANTIS
CINEMA-3	ATLANTIS
CINEMA-4	TOMB RAIDER
CINEMA-5	DUNGEONS & DRAGONS
CINEMA-6	SWORD FISH
UNIWIDE METROMALL	
(LAS PIÑAS)	
CINEMA-1	VALENTINE
CINEMA-2	TOO MUCH FLESH
CINEMA-4	UHAW NA HAYOP
UNIWIDE COASTAL MALL	
(PARAÑAQUE)	
CINEMA-1	KAMANDAG NG ROSAS
CINEMA-2	BLONDIE
CINEMA-4	HOT LOVER

BJMP chief threatens jail wardens

BUREAU of Jail Management and Penology officer-in-charge Chief Supt. Arturo Alit sternly warned all BJMP jail wardens to shape up or they would be booted out of their posts.

Alit issued the warning following the escape of 19 jail inmates including Onofre Surat, principal suspect in the killing of Mark Bacalla.

In his report to Interior and Local Government Secretary Jose Lina Jr., Alit said he has also created a team to investigate the causes of recent jailbreaks from BJMP jails.

Alit said most of the time overcrowding is being blamed for the escape of inmates. He said the real causes should be determined so that the bureau could find lasting solutions to the problem.

"I don't see any reason why inmates could escape if proper procedures in securing them are followed," he said. "Those who disobey procedures will have to go."

Alit has cracked the whip on erring jail wardens. On July 1, he ordered the relief of Chief Inspector Alberto Santos as warden of Quezon City Jail for the escape of Surat.

Supt. Primitivo Benitez replaced Santos.

The BJMP head also ordered the relief of Inspector Arnaldo Jalimbawa, warden of the General Mariano Alvarez Municipal Jail in Cavite, for the escape of 18 inmates on July 2.

Las Piñas bags DOH health plum

LAS PIÑAS City government has again bagged the Department of Health award when all its 20 barangays won the "Gawad Parangal sa Kalusugan" for making their communities clean and healthy.

Las Piñas, which was last year's United Nations Environment Programme awardee and Metro Manila's Cleanest and Greenest City for three consecutive years (1997-1999), has been on the forefront of the campaign for clean, healthy and livable communities since Vergel Aguilar became mayor in 1995.

Aside from making the city clean, Aguilar also gives priority to the construction and improvement of health centers, now numbering 27. He also provided for the establishment of a modern 14-bed maternity clinic to care for the city's childbearing residents, especially the poor.

Mel Aguilar, wife of the mayor, received the award together with barangay and health officials during the awarding ceremony held at the Center for Health Development in Mandaluyong City.

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METRO

LOUIE C. CAMINO, Editor

Angono Comelec official accused of election fraud

By Agnes E. Donato

ANOTHER employee of the Commission on Elections in Angono, Rizal was tagged for allegedly tampering election documents in favor of Mayor Gerry Calderon.

A former colleague identified Famy Flonio, assistant of local Comelec chair Rene Gaton, as the one who signed the names of two Election Registration Board officers in the contested minutes of a board meeting supposedly approving the application of more than 2,000 new voters in the town.

In an affidavit, Virgilio Valles Jr. claimed he saw Flonio forging the signatures of ERB members Magdalena Calderon and Nelia Paz in the minutes of the controversial board meeting.

Valles said Gaton had asked him, Flonio and two other Comelec employees to sign the names of two other ERB officers in the voters' registration record.

But only Flonio, Gaton's right-hand man, followed the order.

The two losing parties in the Angono elections have filed charges of falsification of public documents and violation of Anti-Graft and Practices Act against Gaton, Calderon and Paz.

In a joint complaint, representatives of the local Laban ng Demokratikong Pilipino and Lakas-NUCD claimed that the Comelec officials conspired to make it appear the ERB had approved the applications of new and transferring voters in a board meeting on Jan. 10 to 12, without the presence and consent of representatives of the two opposition camps.

The two losing camps claimed the "illegal" approval of the applications worked in favor of Mayor Calderon, who won by about 1,800 votes.

Earlier, Paz and Calderon executed an affidavit, denying their alleged participation in the supposed meeting. They claimed that their signatures in the minutes of the meeting had been forged.

Manila to give back sidewalks to pedestrians

MANILA Mayor Lito Atienza yesterday launched an all-out drive to clear all sidewalks in the city of illegal structures.

Manila Task Force Kaayusan under Rufino Bunsoy will enforce Atienza's urban renewal drive dubbed "Oplan Sagip Bangketa."

Topping the mayor's target areas are Piy Margal Street in Sampaloc, Claro M. Recto Avenue in the University Belt area and Quirino Avenue.

Four housing units illegally built in the 1970s encroaching not only on the sidewalk but on a portion of the street itself on Piy Margal will be the first to be demolished. The structures have been causing traffic jams in the area over the years.

The sidewalks on both sides of Recto Avenue in the University Belt will also be dismantled, and vending will only be allowed on side streets along the main thoroughfare. Similar structures on Quirino Avenue will also be cleared.

"Sidewalks all over the city have been disappearing as a result of the encroachment of these illegal structures," Atienza said. "It is now time to reclaim these sidewalks so they can be used once more by pedestrians. This would also improve the flow of traffic, especially on major thoroughfares."

In the past decade, pedestrians in Manila have been forced to walk on the streets instead of on sidewalks. As a result, pedestrians run the risk of being hit by cars, while they hamper the flow of vehicular traffic.

Atienza has met with barangay chairmen in all of the city's six districts and have enlisted their support in the clearing operations.

Last Wednesday, Atienza also met with Senior Supt. Nicolas Pasinos, acting Western Police District director, and the eleven station commanders in Manila, to muster their aid to back up the demolition teams of Task Force Kaayusan.

"No illegal structures will be spared in this campaign," Atienza said. "Even barangay halls illegally encroaching on sidewalks will be torn down."

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TOMB RAIDER - P 13 11:30, 1:40, 3:50, 6:00, 8:10, 10:20	DUNGEONS & DRAGONS - GP 12:50, 3:05, 5:20, 7:35, 9:50	SWORD FISH - R 18 11:00, 1:10, 3:20, 5:30, 7:45, 10:00

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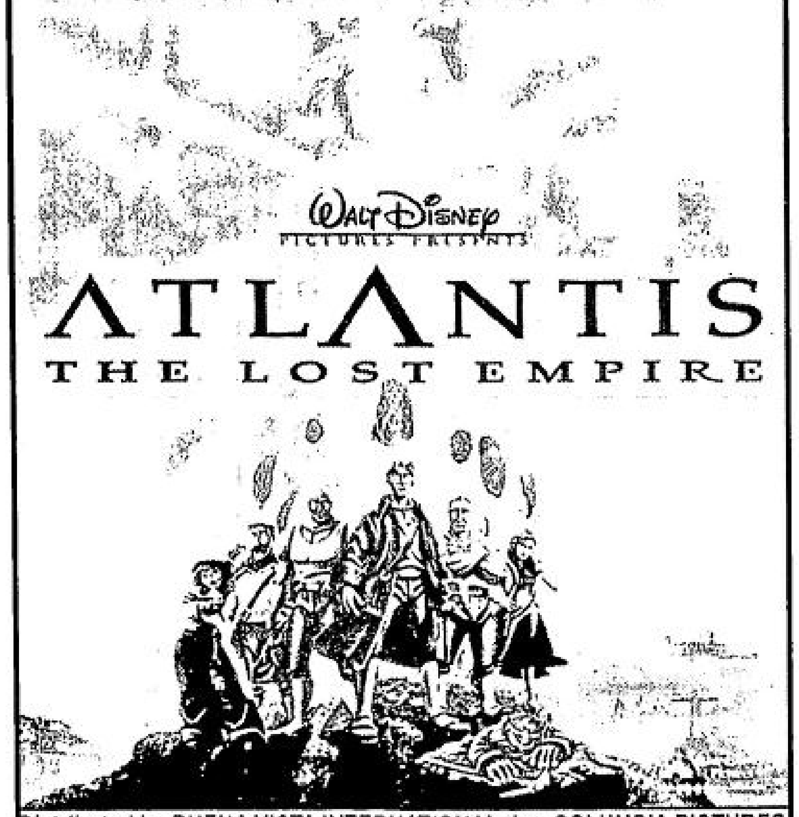

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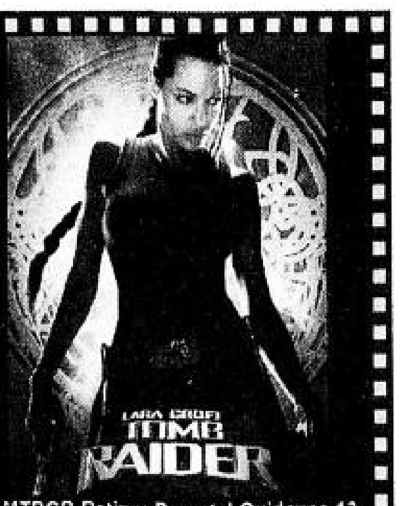

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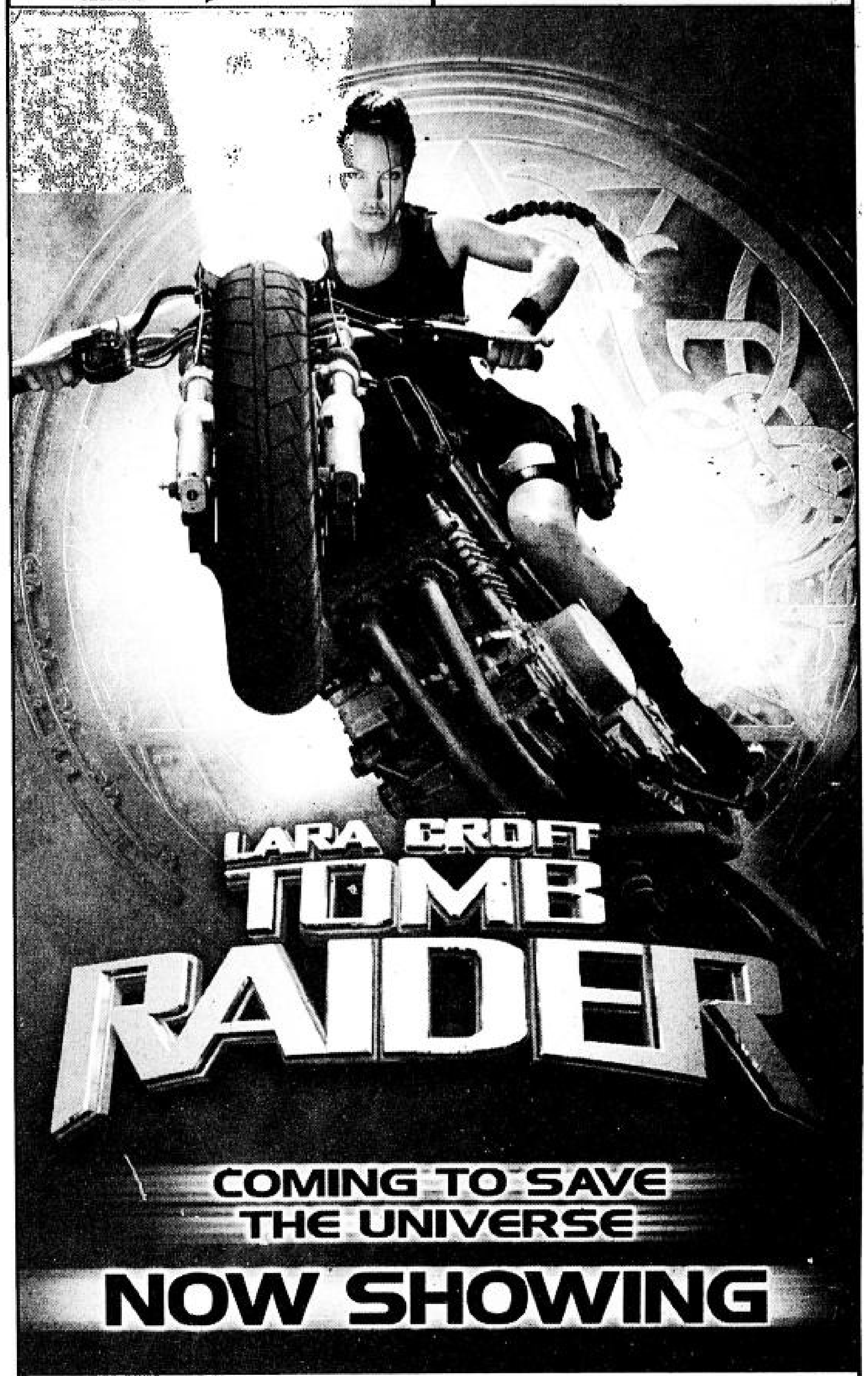

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3. **To get a clue**, key in CLUE and send to 238.
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BUSINESS

RAUL O. MARCELO, Editor ■ CORRIE S. NARISMA, Assistant Editor

Industries face output cuts, layoffs

FACED with the double whammy of declining exports as the global economy slows and higher input costs as the peso slumps, some Philippine manufacturers have quietly begun cutting back output and laying off staff.

The Semiconductors and Electronics Industry Association of the Philippines said its members have begun taking a number of cost cutting steps recently as demand has slowed.

"Some are laying off people, some are shortening their work weeks," association executive director Ernesto Santiago said, adding inventory levels have also been sharply reduced.

The economy is highly dependent on exports, especially electronics, which account for 50-60 percent of total export income but have seen demand fall sharply this year.

The peso's slide against the dollar—it touched a five and a half month low of 53.10 on Wednesday—is providing another headache. While a weaker currency should help export competitiveness, this is being offset by the overall demand slump and declines in other regional currencies.

Many exports, including electronic items, also require imported components that have to be paid for in dollars—a cost that increases as the peso falls.

In addition, the country must import nearly all of its oil requirements and an uptick in crude oil costs along with the peso's slide has seen two price hikes in the past two months.

Federation of Philippine Industries secretary general Joseph Francia said the currency's decline was ratcheting up costs to painful levels for import-dependent firms.

"The mood is certainly not one of exuberance . . . the mood of CEOs I speak to is pessimistic," he said.

The association represents a range of heavy and intermediate industries including chemicals, steel, appliances and garments.

Francia said he had anecdotal evidence that some companies his association represented were scaling back production or letting workers go, but was loathe to predict mass job cuts.

"I am really very hesitant to make any conclusion on how large (layoffs might be), but the outlook is not very bright at this point in time," he said.

Employers Confederation of the Philippines president Donald Dee said the exchange rate has got to a point where manufacturers are now under heavy pressure to raise their prices.

Many firms had anticipated a steadier rate after President Joseph Estrada was ousted from office in January—the climax of the crisis that first sent the peso to over 53 to the dollar.

"When President Macapagal-Arroyo came in, the peso went back below the 50 (to the dollar) level . . . I think manufacturers were anticipating that the exchange rate would be in the vicinity of 48 to one and pricing was set at that level."

With demand for manufactured goods down, companies were now having to take a close look at their staffing needs, Dee said, although they were trying to avoid wholesale job cuts.

"I do not see massive layoffs or closures of factories . . . yes there is going to be some slowdowns especially in domestic industry and so what we are trying to tell members to do is to rotate their workers rather than laying them off."

He added that an improvement in manufacturing activity for the domestic market was likely once the country's law and order situation improved and confidence was lifted.

"The rebound will come very quickly if purchasing power, buyers' confidence, comes back and the confidence will come back if the peace and order situation is restored."

The central bank has acknowledged that the Abu Sayyaf hostage crisis in the south of the country was a contributing factor to the peso's weakness, along with poor investor sentiment. *Reuters*

DOTC to scrap phone rollout rule

BY ABIGAIL L. HO

NEW players planning to enter the cellular phone business may be in for an easier time with the government's plan to scrap its landline rollout requirement.

Transportation and Communications Secretary Pantaleon Alvarez told the INQUIRER yesterday that he had directed National Telecommunications Commission chief Eliseo Rio to scrap this requirement.

Instead of the local exchange rollout, Alvarez said the government might just require cellular phone companies to install more cell sites throughout the country.

In an earlier interview, Rio said the government was bent on relaxing the landline rollout requirement amid the glut in local exchange lines.

"Besides, setting up landlines is more expensive than putting up cell sites," Alvarez said.

Existing rules require phone companies venturing into the cellular mobile telephone system to install 400,000 landline telephones. A phone company is required to roll out another 300,000 lines in exchange for a license to operate an international gateway facility.

The NTC earlier said the country was experiencing a glut in unsubscribed installed landlines, estimated at 3.8 million lines throughout the country, partly because of the rollout requirement of the government. It also traced the glut to the shift in the subscribers' preference from landline phones to the multifunctional cellular units.

There are at present 6.8 million cellular phone subscribers, according to the NTC. The number is expected to hit 12 million in three years, Rio said.

He attributes the popularity of mobile phone system to the wide array of features it offers and its easier payment terms.

To give the landlines this kind of following, the NTC has directed fixed line providers to also come up with services similar to those offered by cellular phones.

Rio is scheduled to meet with telecommunications companies next week to discuss possible means of boosting the subscribers base of fixed line phone companies.

DOF taps Credit Suisse

THE DEPARTMENT of Finance has tapped Credit Suisse First Boston as its sole book runner for its forthcoming $500-million sovereign bond issue.

Finance Secretary Jose Isidro Camacho said the government was considering issuing 10-year bonds worth at least $500 million. He said the timing and place would depend on input from investment banks.

Camacho refused to disclose other details of the plan, saying "strict disclosure requirements overseas prevent us from giving out any further information."

The planned issue will raise the country's foreign loans this year to $1.05 billion, or $310 million more than the DOF's programmed foreign borrowings this year.

As the sole book runner for the $500-million deal, the US-based investment bank is tasked to farm out the debt notes to and take orders from other investment banks.

Credit Suisse First Boston was among the seven banks coordinating the road show. It earlier raised $200 million for the government through a private placement.

Banking sources said the bond issue might be held even before the DOF's roadshow in US, Europe and Asia late this month to early August.

Camacho early this week said market conditions were favorable to a bond issue from the Philippines because of a generally positive sentiment on the country as well as the lack of new debt instruments from emerging markets.

"While it's true that there was a dearth of issues from emerging markets, there were a lot of debt notes coming from the Philippines and this would affect the pricing of the transaction," said a source from a foreign bank.

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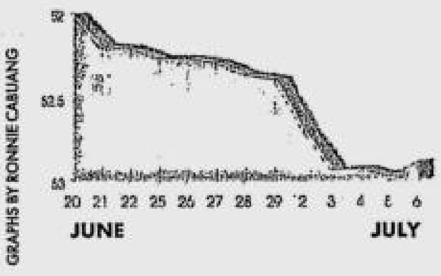

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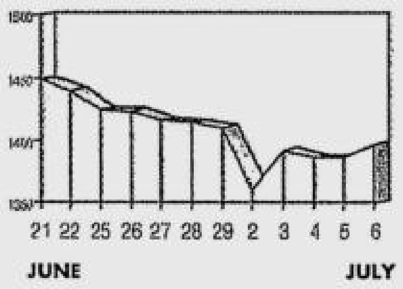
United Kingdom	Pound	1.674910	1.401900	74.2516
Hong Kong	Dollar	0.153182	0.128213	6.7908
Switzerland	Franc	0.656958	0.549874	29.1241
Canada	Dollar	0.789339	0.660677	34.9928
Singapore	Dollar	0.654833	0.548095	29.0299
Australia	Dollar	0.616355	0.515889	27.3241
Bahrain	Dinar	3.169249	2.652661	140.4982
Saudi Arabia	Rial	0.318590	0.266660	14.1236
Brunei	Dollar	0.653759	0.547196	28.9822
Indonesia	Rupiah	0.000105	0.000088	0.0047
Thailand	Baht	0.026252	0.021973	1.1638
UAE	Dirham	0.325295	0.272272	14.4209
Korea	Won	0.000924	0.000773	0.0409
Euro	Euro	1.000000	0.837000	44.3317
Germany	Mark	0.511292	0.427951	22.6664
France	Franc	0.152450	0.127600	6.7583
Netherlands	Guilder	0.453780	0.379814	20.1168
Austria	Schilling	0.072673	0.060827	3.2217
Belgium	Franc	0.024790	0.020749	1.0990
Italy	Lire	0.000516	0.000432	0.0229
Finland	Markka	0.168188	0.140773	7.4560
Portugal	Escudo	0.004988	0.004175	0.2211
Spain	Peseta	0.006010	0.00503	0.2664
Luxembourg	Franc	0.024790	0.020749	1.0990
Ireland	Punt	1.269738	1.062771	56.2897

STOCK MARKET

Shares lower

PSE Composite Index



(See stock market report on Page B2)

STOCKS fluctuated in a tight range yesterday, ending slightly lower as a host of economic negatives hanging over the country continued to keep most investors wary, traders said.

Some light profit taking on selected stocks and a lack of interest going into the weekend also had an impact, they said.

Inflation and exports data released this week as well as the weak peso, which touched a five-and-a-half month low on Wednesday, continue to drag on sentiment.

The main index closed down 5.31 points, or 0.38 percent, at 1,396.92 points.

Turnover dropped to P278.75 million from P462.74 million reflecting the lethargy in the market.

On the week the main index was down 13.15 points, or 0.9 percent. "Mostly it was just lower liners moving . . . people want to play something," Regina Capital Development Corp. vice president Allan Araullo said.

He added with the main index technically oversold at present levels there was room for some upside next week.

"We could possibly push toward 1,450 points barring any significant new negative developments," Araullo said. *Reuters*

9 listed firms warned

THE PHILIPPINE Stock Exchange yesterday warned nine listed companies of possible suspension of their shares' trading for their failure to comply with the bourse's reportorial requirements.

Listed companies are required to submit audited quarterly and annual financial statements. Companies found to have violated this rule face fines and suspension of the trading of their shares.

The nine companies were food and beverage company RFM Corp., Benguet Corp., Fil-Estate Corp., Philcomsat Holdings Corp., Sinophil Corp., Unioil Resources & Holdings Co. Inc., Philippine National Construction Corp., Universal Rightfield Property Holdings Inc. and Wellex Industries Inc.

Early this week, the PSE suspended the trading of the shares of property developer C&P Homes and Reynolds Philippines Corp. for failing to meet the reportorial requirements. The suspension on C&P Homes, however, has been lifted.

In the case of RFM, the company is in negotiations with its bondholders because it was not able to honor its redemption obligations related to $65 million worth of bonds due last May 30. It said earlier that it would need additional time to service the redemption payments for the convertible bonds because of a "temporary cash flow mismatch."

RFM also disclosed yesterday that it would defer payment on its quarterly cash dividend on preferred shares, in the amount of 11.67 centavos per share, in the light of its ongoing discussions with bondholders.

$253-M loan for MNTC's tollway

A UNIT of Benpres Holdings Corp. yesterday said it was set to draw down $253 million from various foreign lenders to complete the expansion of a tollway project in northern Luzon.

Manila North Tollways Corp., 60-percent owned by Benpres, said in a statement it was also expecting $117.5 million worth of equity investments from new investors to help finance the North Luzon Expressway.

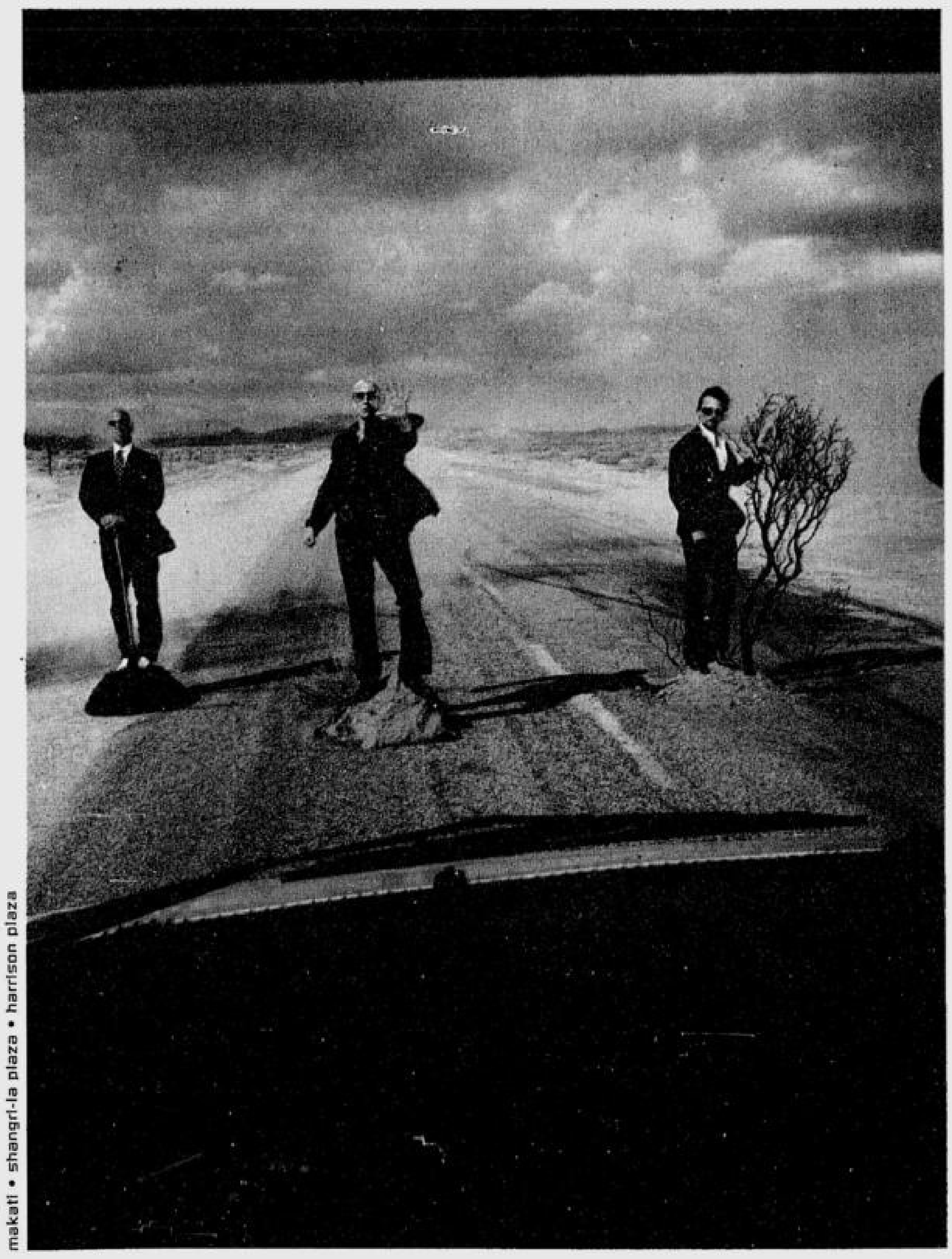
The expressway connects the capital to Pampanga.

Philippine National Construction Corp. and France's Groupe Egis, each holding a 20-percent stake in MNTC, are selling half of their holdings to new investors to accommodate the equity investments equivalent to 20 percent stake in the tollway unit.

MNTC spokesperson Angelo Sambo said a consortium of seven commercial banks and five financial institutions led by the Asian Development Bank and the International Finance Corp will extend the $253 million loan.

Construction on the project will start later this year. The project is expected to be completed by 2003.

Benpres rose 4 centavos yesterday to close at P1.88 on news of the dollar loan. The property index dropped 12.44 points or 2.33 percent at 521.08 points. *Reuters*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It's a peso cake

BREAKTIME

Conrado R. Banal III

IN the past 30 days or so, the peso already gave up something like P3 per dollar. That's an amazing 6-percent depreciation! In one month! Those who use the official forex market like it's a casino can definitely say they just hit the jackpot.

No investment in this world can yield that much. Not even the most notorious pyramiding schemes! At the most, such rackets offer returns of only 5 percent a month.

Which, between 6 percent (dollar speculation) and 5 percent (pyramiding schemes), is higher? Now don't think it's a piece of cake. I don't know if a couple of our newly elected senators know the answer.

Here, for their sake, is a little hint: Sirs, the answer is not the one, between "six" and "five," which contains more letters.

* * *

ASIDE from the return angle, anyway, pyramiding schemes have another downside. If you put your lifetime savings in them, you can never get back you money.

To think, all those pyramiding schemes are criminal acts. At times, they are punishable by public lynching. That is, if the victims can get hold of the perpetrators.

And that's another point against pyramiding schemes. The forex market has the blessings of the government. Dollar speculation is legit.

Those who participate in it are even among the most respected people of society. They do not say of course that dollar speculation is now the biggest racket of them all.

* * *

FORTUNATELY for us down here, the unabated depreciation of the peso, already lasting for about a month now, is still not going to end soon. So-called currency traders already proclaimed the good news of the depreciation.

I see only one fantastic thing about it. Those traders in big banks are not really bothered that they actually insult our intelligence.

In all news reports, which never reveal their names, they tell us all sorts of reasons why the peso should be weak. They never run out of reasons.

Actually, between you and I, my info is that traders never run out of reasons because big-time speculators kidnapped them, and unless they come up with a million reasons for the depreciation, the speculators will cut off their manhood.

* * *

IN this same country only last year, for instance, the dollars coming in were much more than the dollars going out. Logically, the peso should be stronger than the dollar.

That is, of course, unless Congress has already repealed the law of supply and demand, which it is likely to do, considering the caliber of the new senators we have elected.

But no, sir, traders could not accept such a stupid line. A good amount of dollars might have come into the country, but more dollars do not a strong peso make.

At that time, traders still insisted that the peso simply would have to be weak. And they had an undebatable reason. It's because the dollar was supposed to be strong.

* * *

IN the beginning of this month-long fall of the peso, traders blamed the Abu Sayyaf. Apparently, the Abu Sayyaf lost their touch.

The group reportedly accepted pesos as ransom for the kidnapping victims. The Abu Sayyaf used to ask for dollars. This country just lost another dollar-earning business.

Sooner or later, nevertheless, the fascination of traders with the Abu Sayyaf should wane. And it did. Still, to all of them, the peso must remain weak.

This time, the reason had nothing to do with peace and order or even kidnapping as a business. Finally, traders give some reasons related to economics twice removed.

* * *

NOW they are saying that the peso must depreciate, and their banks must continue to make a killing out of it because exports are bound to go down. Less dollars, in short.

But the Department of Finance announces that this cute administration of Gloriaetta is getting hundreds of millions in dollar loans abroad soon. More dollars *naman*.

Despite this, according to the traders, the peso must still depreciate because, while dollars are coming in, the exporters are still not selling their dollar earnings to the banks.

Of course, no! Traders themselves predict a further peso depreciation. Why should exporters gift the banks with their dollars? So that only banks can make the killing?

* * *

AFTER blaming all those greedy exporters for the depreciation, since they would not part with their dollars, denying banks their just share of the peso depreciation cake, who knows what traders will think of next?

This month, if they still want to keep their manhood, they are likely to say that the peso should depreciate because some 80 million Filipinos are still breathing and because they do, they are bound to copulate, which can strain dollar supply.

By their own job description, you see, those very same traders quoted in news reports must take positions in the forex market. Yes, they gamble! Their job is to bet on where the peso is going one way or the other, whether up or down.

Now, if traders keep on saying that the peso is going to depreciate, I will personally cut my neighbor's manhood if, the forex casino, their hundreds of millions in bet is not for the peso to depreciate.

* * *

AND that, ladies and gentlemen, is really the whole problem. This thing about the peso depreciation—thanks to bank traders—feeds on itself.

The peso is weak because exporters do not sell dollars to banks, thinking that the peso is going to get weaker because banks are saying that the peso is going to get weak some more.

Which, of course, the peso does by getting weak quickly. It's always a self-fulfilling prophecy. Problem is, only us down here get hurt!

Ortigas-owned mining firm probed for insider trading

By Doris C. Dumlao

THE PHILIPPINE Stock Exchange is investigating a possible case of insider trading involving dormant mining firm Itogon-Suyoc Mines Inc.

The investigation was triggered by a sharp rise in Itogon-Suyoc's share prices prior to the announcement of a buy-in deal involving another listed firm, Philweb.com Inc. of former Trade Minister Roberto Ongpin.

In a news briefing yesterday, PSE president Ramon Garcia said he was confident the stock exchange would be able to come up with a resolution on the case by next week.

Despite the investigation, the stock exchange decided against suspending trading on Itogon-Suyoc shares on account of the company's minority shareholders.

The Ortigas family owns Itogon-Suyoc, one of the country's oldest mining firms.

In the first six months of the year, Itogon-Suyoc's share prices skyrocketed by more than five times to 5.25 centavos per share. It closed at 4 centavos yesterday.

PSE counsel Dennis Eala said the huge interest in Itogon-Suyoc shares prior to the announcement of the Itogon-Suyoc-Philweb deal suggested insider trading.

"There was activity on the stock. There could have been insider trading. I'm not saying there is, but there might be," Eala told reporters.

Insider trading refers to the unfair use of privileged information about a listed company to make a profit. An insider could be a shareholder, director, manager, creditor or any stakeholder of a certain company.

Eala said Itogon-Suyoc repeatedly denied knowing any factor influencing the movement of its shares before it was announced this week that it had reached a deal with Philweb.

Itogon-Suyoc has signed a memorandum of agreement to sell around 40 percent of its stake to Philweb at one centavo per share.

Eala said Itogon-Suyoc had the privilege of withholding information until it had finalized a deal. But he stressed that once information began leaking, Itogon-Suyoc had the responsibility of disclosing information to the public.

Itogon-Suyoc earlier sought an exemption from the PSE's price-discount rule so it could close a deal with Philweb.

Under the PSE's rules, listed companies are prohibited from selling shares to a new investor at a hefty price discount to prevent the unfair dilution of equities held by other shareholders.

In a July 3 letter to the PSE, Itogon-Suyoc president Alberto Montilla sought clearance from the local bourse to accept a private placement from Philweb, which agreed Monday to subscribe to 12 billion unissued shares of Itogon-Suyoc's authorized capital stock at a par value of one centavo each.

The deal will bring Itogon-Suyoc's subscribed shares to 30 billion, giving Ongpin's group a 40-percent controlling stake.

Eagle Equities Inc. president and former PSE governor Joseph Roxas warned, however, that Itogon-Suyoc would violate the stock exchange's price-discount rule should it push through with a buy-in deal with Philweb at a par value of one centavo per share. It was under Roxas' term as PSE listing chair that the regulation against price discounts was introduced.

This rule bars, in cases where there is likely to be a significant demand of shares from existing shareholders, the listing of shares subscribed from private placement, debt-to-equity conversion, share-for-share or share-for-property swap or similar transaction unless a rights or public offering for shareholders is first undertaken.

Specifically, it prevents a listed company from offering a discount beyond 10 percent of its average market price or its book value, whichever is higher.

Itogon-Suyoc has offered Philweb a discount of 67 percent below its average 30-day market price of 3 centavos per share.

Itogon-Suyoc's Montilla said his company would be unable to conduct a stock rights offering should it comply with the PSE's price-discount rule.

RFM defers dividend payment

FOOD conglomerate RFM Corp. has deferred a quarterly payment of cash dividends for its preferred shares while renegotiating with bondholders it failed to pay in May.

In a disclosure to the Philippine Stock Exchange, RFM said it could not meet its quarterly cash dividend payment of 11.67 centavos per share, which was due at end-June.

"The board of directors passed and approved a resolution deferring the payment of said cash dividend in light of the ongoing discussion with RFM's bondholders," the company said.

"Nonetheless, the holders of RFM preferred shares are entitled to receive a dividend, which is cumulative in the years when no dividend is declared."

In May, RFM defaulted on the redemption payment of its unit RFM Capital's convertible bonds, citing a temporary cash flow mismatch.

The bonds, issued in May 1996 in the principal amount of $65 million, will mature in 2006 and pay interest at the annual rate of 2.75 percent.

The holders of the outstanding bonds had an option to redeem them on May 30, 2001 at a redemption price equal to 128.71 percent of the principal amount.

RFM is reportedly considering the sale of its soft drinks unit Cosmos Bottling Corp. either to San Miguel Corp. or PepsiCo Inc. to raise cash.

San Miguel, which has a joint venture with Coca-Cola, offered to buy RFM's 85-percent stake in Cosmos for P12 billion but failed to reach an agreement after RFM quoted a higher price.

RFM wanted P16 billion for its holdings in Cosmos. *Reuters*

FOR his valuable assistance to the cause of education and generous donations to the Ateneo Law School, beer and tobacco tycoon Lucio Tan (center) receives a commemorative bust of St. Ignatius de Loyola from Ateneo Law School dean Joaquin Bernas (second from left) and Ateneo de Manila University president Bienvenido Nebres (second from right). With Tan are his brothers Harry (left) and Mariano.

Security to invest ₱50M in new system

By Elena R. Torrijos

SECURITY International Card Corp., Security Banking Corp.'s credit card arm, is investing some P50 million this year in a new card operating system.

In a speech during the launching of Diners Club Premiere Card earlier this week, SICC general manager Alex Ilagan said the new card operating system would allow the company to provide even more innovative services and compete more effectively in the country's fast-growing credit card market.

In a news briefing, Ilagan said the company expected to have a total of 25,000 Diners Club Premiere Cards in circulation within the next two years.

The newly launched card, designed to be even more upscale than the "gold cards" of other credit card companies, offers personalized rewards, concierge service and comprehensive travel insurance, among others.

SICC also aims to increase the card base of its flagship brand, Diners Club, to 120,000 by year's end from close to 100,000.

Billings volume would likely grow 25 percent this year to P5 billion, Ilagan said.

SICC will launch later this year another product, the Mastercard credit card, which is expected to amass a credit card base of 30,000 to 40,000 within the first 12 months from introduction.

"We can see there's an emerging affluent segment, and this will continue to grow and possibly exert more influence in the market," Ilagan said.

Security Bank president Rafael Simpao Jr., meanwhile, said the bank itself would post a slight increase in net income to P430 million from P422 million last year.

Simpao said the projected profit could be much higher except the bank decided to set aside a bigger amount to cover for bad loans this year.

Security Bank has put up P350 million in loan-loss provisions during the first semester, half of the total amount it was earmarking for the year. Its provisions last year stood at P490 million.

Philippine Stock Exchange

(As of Friday, July 6, 2001)

STOCKS	OPEN	HIGH	LOW	CLOSE	VOLUME
BANKS & FINANCIAL SERVICES					
BANKS					
Asiatrust Dev. Bank Inc.	5.1	5.1	5.1	5.1	13,000
Banco Filipino Sav & Mort	100	100	100	100	500
Bank of the Phil. Islands	73	73	72	72	46,500
China Banking Corp.	670	670	665	670	1,130
Equitable PCI Bank Inc.	35.5	36	35.5	36	97,000
Metropolitan Bank & Trust	206	208	205	206	70,880
Philippine National Bank	46	46	46	46	3,000
Phil. Savings Bank	28.5	28.5	28.5	28.5	1,200
Security Bank Corp.	20.5	21	20.5	21	43,500
FINANCIAL SERVICE					
First Metro Invest. Corp.	249	250	249	250	140
Manulife Financial Corp.	1430	1440	1430	1440	1,250
Sun Life Financial Serv.	1235	1240	1230	1235	5,050
COMMERCIAL & INDUSTRIAL					
COMMUNICATION					
ABS-CBN Broadcasting Corp.	39.5	39.5	39.5	39.5	200
Digital Telecom Phils Inc.	0.51	0.51	0.51	0.51	1,100,000
Globe Telecom Inc.	670	670	670	670	110
Island Info and Tech Inc.	0.039	0.044	0.039	0.044	21,600,000
Liberty Telecoms Holdings	0.48	0.48	0.48	0.48	30,160,000
Piltel	0.58	0.58	0.58	0.58	50,000
Phil. Long Dis Tel Co.	710	710	710	710	6,910
Philweb.Com Inc.	0.038	0.038	0.036	0.037	68,100,000
POWER & ENERGY					
Manila Electric Co. A	38	38.5	38	38.5	23,300
Manila Electric Co. B	53.5	53.5	53.5	53.5	11,100
Petron Corp.	2.12	2.14	2.08	2.1	3,943,000
TRANSPORTATION SERVICES					
Asian Terminals Inc.	1.28	1.28	1.28	1.28	100,000
Int'l Container Term'l Sv	2.5	2.6	2.48	2.55	12,000,000
Lorenzo Shipping Corp.	0.3	0.33	0.3	0.33	130,000
Negros Navigation Co. Inc.	0.15	0.15	0.15	0.15	110,000
CONSTRUCTION & OTHER RELATED PRODUCTS					
Engineering Equip. Inc.	0.34	0.34	0.34	0.34	810,000
Union Cement Corp.	1.18	1.18	1.18	1.18	550,000
FOOD, BEVERAGES & TOBACCO					
Cosmos Bottling Corp.	4.35	4.35	4.35	4.35	385,000
Jollibee Foods Corp.	13.5	13.75	13.5	13.5	139,700
Liberty Flour Mills Inc.	18	18	18	18	41,000
La Tondeña Distillers Inc.	26.5	26.5	26	26.5	310,000
RFM Corp.	1.82	1.82	1.72	1.74	4,789,000
San Miguel Corp. A	41	41	40.5	40.5	18,200
San Miguel Corp. B	47	47.5	47	47	120,500
Vitarich Corp.	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	100,000
HOLDING FIRMS					
Abacus Con Res & Hdg A	0.85	0.9	0.85	0.87	540,000
Abacus Con Res & Hdg B	0.86	0.9	0.86	0.87	100,000
Ayala Corp.	6.9	6.9	6.9	6.9	68,000
Aboitiz Equity Ventures	1.44	1.48	1.44	1.46	370,000
Alliance Global Group Inc.	11	11.25	10.75	11	1,700
Ajo.Net Holdings Inc.	1.2	1.22	1.18	1.2	1,030,000
A. Soriano Corp.	0.52	0.52	0.52	0.52	30,000
Alcorn Gold Res. Corp.	0.006	0.0065	0.006	0.0065	70,000,000
ATN Holdings Inc.	2.2	2.2	2.2	2.2	10,000
Balabac Resources & Hldgs.	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	100,000
Boulevard Holdings Inc.	0.21	0.21	0.21	0.21	100,000
Benpres Holdings Corp.	1.86	1.92	1.86	1.88	19,479,000
Ever-Gotesco Resources	0.05	0.05	0.05	0.05	100,000
Filinvest Dev. Corp.	1	1	1	1	20,000
First Phil Hldgs Corp.	28.5	31.5	28.5	31.5	1,566,700
Forum Pacific Inc.	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.3	200,000
Global Equities Inc.	0.21	0.21	0.21	0.21	370,000
Ionics Inc.	11	11	11	11	5,000
Ipeople Inc.	1.1	1.1	1.1	1.1	20,000
J.G. Summit Holdings Inc.	2.08	2.08	2.08	2.08	2,000
Marsteel Cons. Inc. B	0.015	0.015	0.015	0.015	400,000
Megaworld Corp.	0.73	0.75	0.73	0.75	80,000
Multitech Inv. Corp.	0.28	0.28	0.28	0.28	20,000
Metro Pacific Corp.	0.48	0.48	0.47	0.47	1,530,000
Solid Group Inc.	0.47	0.47	0.47	0.47	130,000
Seafront Resources Corp.	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.3	10,000
Tanduay Holdings Inc.	5.3	5.3	5.3	5.3	5,000
Uniwide Holdings Inc.	0.27	0.28	0.27	0.28	880,000
Waterfront Phils. Inc.	0.22	0.24	0.22	0.22	1,100,000
MANUFACTURING, DISTRIBUTION & TRADING					
Corro-Coat Inc.	1.44	1.44	1.44	1.44	10,000
Music Corp.	1.84	1.84	1.84	1.84	6,000
Mabuhay Vinyl Corp.	0.66	0.66	0.66	0.66	20,000
Central Azucar Don Pedro	0.88	0.88	0.85	0.85	290,000
SPI Technologies Inc.	15.25	15.25	15.25	15.25	125,000
HOTEL, RECREATION & OTHER SERVICE					
Belle Corp.	0.53	0.53	0.5	0.52	3,260,000
Fairmont Holdings Inc.	0.55	0.55	0.54	0.54	1,150,000
Leisure & Resorts Corp.	0.45	0.46	0.45	0.46	330,000
BONDS, PREFERRED & WARRANTS					
ABS-CBN Hldgs. Corp. (Pdr)	40.5	40.5	40	40.5	205,900
Equitable PCI Bank-War	1.9	2	1.9	2	118,000
Jollibee Warrants	13.5	13.5	13.5	13.5	10,000
Omico Corp. Warrant	0.0026	0.0028	0.0026	0.0028	249,000,000
PNB Warrants	12	12	12	12	1,000
PLDT (10% Pref.) Series U	10.5	10.5	10.25	10.25	1,100
PLDT (10% Pref) Series V	10.5	10.5	10.25	10.25	3,300
PLDT (10% Pref) Series Z	10.5	10.5	10.5	10.5	1,000
PLDT 10% Pref Series Aa	10.25	10.5	10.25	10.5	3,700
Philweb.Com Inc.-Warrants	0.026	0.026	0.025	0.025	24,400,000
PROPERTY					
Ayala Land Inc.	5.2	5.2	5.1	5.1	607,000
Araneta Properties Inc.	0.25	0.26	0.25	0.25	630,000
C & P Homes Inc.	0.27	0.27	0.27	0.27	800,000
Cyber Bay Corp.	0.29	0.29	0.29	0.29	150,000
Empire East Land Inc.	0.31	0.31	0.31	0.31	4,970,000
Filinvest Land Inc.	2.2	2.2	2.18	2.18	902,000
Kuok Phil. Properties	0.145	0.145	0.14	0.14	4,440,000
Fil-Estate Land Inc.	0.25	0.25	0.25	0.25	260,000
SM Development Corp.	0.8	0.8	0.8	0.8	20,000
SM Prime Holdings Inc.	6.3	6.3	6.2	6.2	3,892,000
Universal Rightfield Prop.	0.08	0.08	0.08	0.08	1,100,000
Urbancorp Realty Dev. Inc.	0.25	0.31	0.25	0.31	650,000
MINING					
Apex Mining Co. Inc. A	0.006	0.0065	0.006	0.0065	24,000,000
Apex Mining Co. Inc B	0.006	0.0065	0.006	0.0065	32,000,000
Atlas Cons. Min & Dev't	1.8	2	1.8	2	123,000
Dizon Copper Silver Mines	2.55	2.55	2.5	2.5	6,000
Itogon-Suyoc Mines A	0.042	0.044	0.04	0.041	69,600,000
Itogon-Suyoc Mines B	0.043	0.043	0.043	0.043	200,000
Lepanto Cons. Mng. Co B	0.185	0.185	0.185	0.185	200,000
Omico Corp.	0.0042	0.005	0.0042	0.005	490,000,000
Polar Mines & Dev't Corp.	0.024	0.026	0.024	0.026	227,700,000
Philex Mining Corp. A	0.36	0.36	0.36	0.36	460,000
Philex Mining Corp. B	0.37	0.37	0.36	0.37	2,050,000
United Paragon Mining Co.	0.18	0.18	0.18	0.18	140,000
OIL					
Imperial Res.	0.021	0.025	0.021	0.024	122,800,000
Interport Res.	0.0055	0.0055	0.0055	0.0055	6,000,000
Interport Res. B	0.0055	0.0055	0.0055	0.0055	2,000,000
Oriental Pet. & Min. A	0.0046	0.0046	0.0044	0.0044	11,000,000
Oriental Pet. & Min. B	0.0046	0.0046	0.0046	0.0046	3,000,000
The Philodrill Corp. B	0.22	0.22	0.22	0.22	10,000
Pacifica	0.017	0.018	0.017	0.017	127,400,000

	SHARES	VALUE (P)
Banks & Fin Svc	283,150	31,452,450.00
Comm'l & Ind'l	521,800,420	196,883,310.00
PRO	18,421,000	32,283,760.00
Mining	846,479,000	12,594,400.00
OIL	272,210,000	5,274,200.00
GRAND TOTALS:	1,659,193,570	278,488,120.00

AVERAGES		
Banks & Fin Svc	573.06	DOWN 7.01
Comm'l & Ind'l	1,979.81	DOWN 4.07
PRO	521.08	DOWN 12.44
Mining	1,335.64	DOWN 3.41
OIL	1.61	UP 0.09
All Shares Index	795.47	DOWN 5.49
Composite	1,396.92	DOWN 5.31

NO. OF ADVANCES: 38; NO. OF DECLINES: 31; NO. OF UNCHANGED: 46; NO. OF TRADED ISSUES: 115; NO. OF TRADES: 2,770

DISCLOSURES

THE BOARD of **China Banking Corp.** has fixed the record date of its 10-percent stock dividend on July 19 and the issuance date on Aug. 17.

* * *

EQUITABLE PCI Bank Inc. denied yesterday rumors that it deferred payments to the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas, saying its due date would not be until Nov. 13.

* * *

MONDRAGON International Philippines Inc. clarified yesterday reports that it had no knowledge of the opposition by its creditors to the Clark-Mimosa deal.

* * *

PACEMCO Holdings Inc. will be known as **NextStage Inc.** and its stock trading symbol will change to "NXT" starting July 10.

* * *

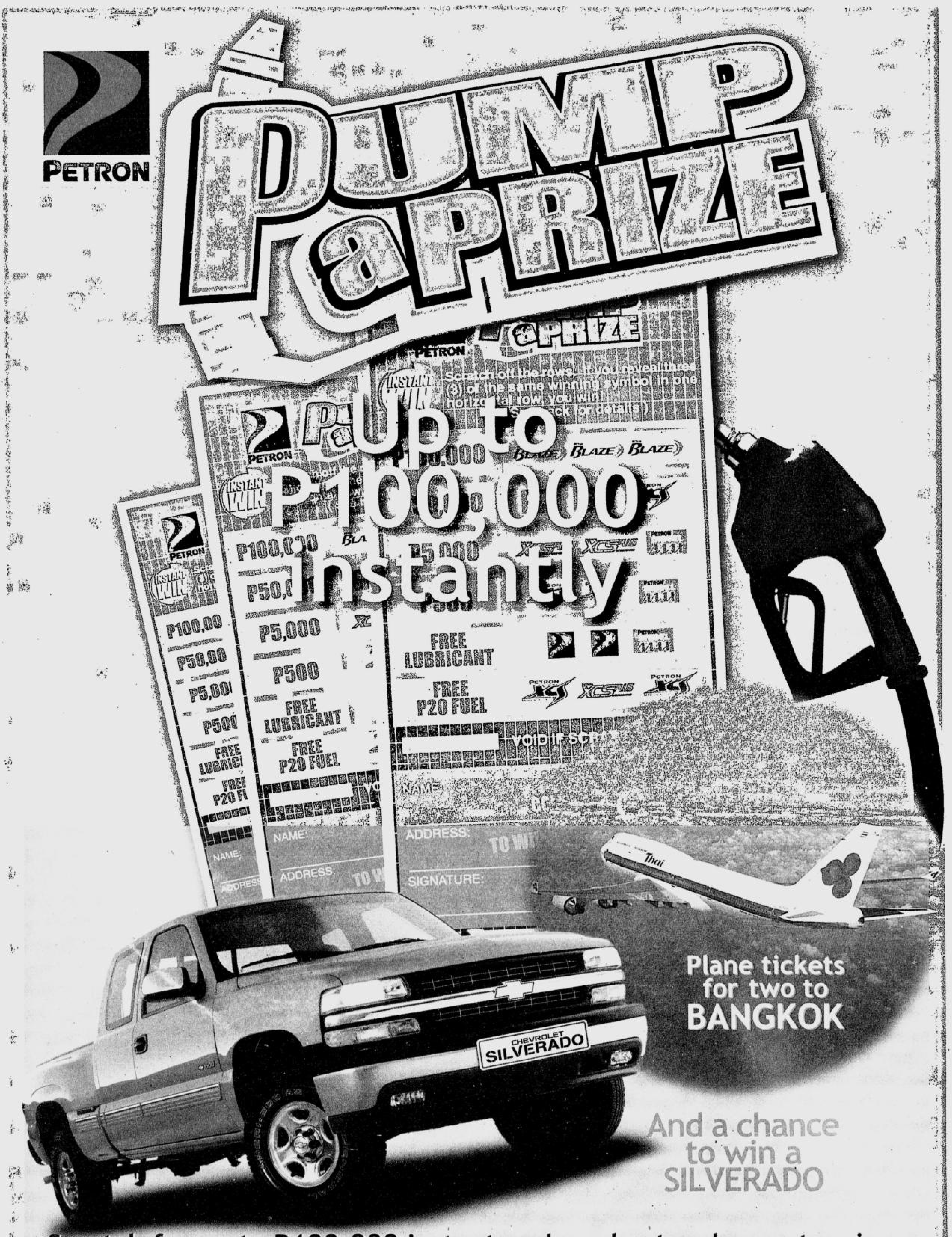
METRO Pacific Corp. has announced the completion of the Phase 1 structure of Bonifacio Ridge by Fort Bonifacio Development Corp.

* * *

ELECTED as directors of **Rizal Commercial Banking Corp.** were Alfonso Yuchengco, Rizalino Navarro, Alfonso Yuchengco III, Cesar Virata, Valentin Araneta, Bienvenido Tantoco Sr., Susanne Santos, Ryo Narumai, Yasuhiro Matsumoto, Teodoro Pena and Teodoro Regala.

* * *

FIRST Metro Investment Corp. has approved a cash dividend of P32.60 per share. Record date has been set on July 23 and payment date on July 26. *Compiled by Ray Leyesa, PDI Research*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LEGAL NOTICE

Notice is hereby given that the deposits of the late Glenda Y. Aricheta has been extrajudicially settled by heirs on June 16, 2001 under Doc.# 695; Page # 71; Book No. III; Series of 2001 before Notary Public Atty. Antonio G. Malonzo PDI-(June 23, 30 & July 7, 2001)

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LEGAL NOTICE

Notice is hereby given that the late ELIZER D. VISPO was extrajudicially settled by his only heirs under Doc# 248, Page# 51, Book# 67, Series of 2001, before Notary Public Atty. Quirico L. Pilotin of Santiago City Isabela.
(PDI- June 30, July 7, & 14 2001)

Notice is hereby given that the estate of the late EUSEBIO M. MINAS of Sta. Cruz Zambales has been extrajudicially settled among [illegible] heirs as per Doc No 89; Page No 18; Book No I; Series of 2001 before Notary Public Al I Perreras PTR No. 18 25292 whose Commission expires on 31 December 2001.
(PDI- 6/ 23,30 & 7/ 7/2001)

NOTICE OF LOSS

Notice is given that BPI Stock Cert. 165101 issued to Victoriana C. Ligan was lost as notarized by Atty. Danilo M. Lombos under Doc.# 9, Page#1,Book#7,Series 2001 (PDI-June 30.July 7&14.2001)

PERSONAL

PRAYER TO THE
HOLY SPIRIT

Holy Spirit thou who make me see everything and show me the way to reach my ideal. You who give me the divine gift to forgive and forget the wrong that is done to me and who are in all instances of my life with me. I, in this short dialogue, want to thank You for everything and confirm once more that I never want to be separated from You, no matter how great the material desires may be. I want to be with You and my loved ones in Your Perpetual Glory. Amen.

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NOTICE is hereby given that San Miguel Corporation Stock Cert. Nos. A-B94066491 for 9,276 shares, B93033798 for 1,546 shares, B92022814 for 702 shares, B89005171 for 3,514 shares; B89001596 for 1,757 shares, B88001377 for 229 shares; B88001377 for 299 shares, B86003162 for 364 shares; B81022821 for 220 shares and B80018159 for 200 shares in the name of Paz G. Romualdez and/or Linda G. Romualdez. Stock Cert. Nos. B-A94151216 for 1,683 shares; B94066489 for 9,313 shares, B93033796 for 1,552 shares; A93078660 for 280 shares; A92033612 for 127 shares; B92022812 for 705 shares; A89033799 for 638 shares; B89005169 for 3,528 shares; B89001594 for 1,764 shares; A89012048 for 319 shares; A88007034 for 41 shares; B88001375 for 230 shares; A86014542 for 36 shares; B86003160 for 200 shares; A81089043 for 22 shares, B81022819 for 121 shares; A80072055 for 20 shares and B80018157 for 110 shares in the name of Paz G. Romualdez. Stock Cert. Nos. B-B94066492 for 9,276 shares; B93033799 for 1,546 shares, B92022815 for 702 shares; B89005172 for 3,514 shares; B89001597 for 1,757 shares, B8801378 for 229 shares; B86003163 for 364 shares; B81022822 for 220 shares and B80018160 for 200 shares in the name of Paz G. Romualdez and/or Ma. Mediatrix R. Vergel de Dios; Stock Cert. Nos. B-B94066490 for 9,276 shares, B93033797 for 1,546 shares, B92022813 for 702 shares, B89005170 for 3,514 shares; B89001595 for 1,757 shares; B88001376 for 229 shares; B86003161 for 364 shares; B81022820 for 220 shares and B80018158 for 200 shares in the name of Paz G. Romualdez and/or Bernardita R. Luciano; Stock Cert. Nos. A A94151217 for 9,276 shares; A93078661 for 1,546 shares; A92033613 for 902 shares; A89033800 for 3,514 shares; A89012049 for 1,757 shares; A88007035 for 229 shares; A86014543 for 364 shares; A81089044 for 220 shares and A80072056 for 200 shares in the name of Paz G. Romualdez and/or Concepcion R. Romualdez, have all been declared lost, per Affidavits of Loss, both dated May 15, 2001, executed by Linda G. Romualdez-Tu, Ma. Bernardita R. Luciano and Concepcion R. Romualdez and ratified before Notary Public, Ma. Cecilia P. Subido of Makati City.

(PDI--June 30, July 7, 2001)

INQUIRER TRIVIA

By BONG BARRAMEDA

Wrinkles

Q. Why do people develop wrinkles in their skin as they grow older?

A. Wrinkling has three main causes: the Sun, gravity, and facial expression. When you're outdoors, ultraviolet radiation from the Sun is pushing through the outer layer of your skin, damaging the skin structures underneath. In addition, no matter where you are, the Earth's gravity is tugging on your skin, pulling it down. On top of all these, you are constantly folding and refolding your skin—by smiling, frowning, raising your eyebrows. As the years go by, these creases are worn into your skin, leaving a visible mark of all the conversations you had, all the grins you flashed , all the tears you cried.

For the Record. Studies reveal that cigarette smokers tend to wrinkle at younger ages than nonsmokers. And the more cigarettes smoked, the more lined and wrinkly the face. People who smoked a lot were five times more likely to have extra wrinkling than those who didn't smoke at all.

Ooops! Spaghetti, macaroni and other noodle-like pastas originated not in Italy but in China. Marco Polo, the famous Italian world traveler, had first tasted 'noodles' in China, where 'pasta' had been part of the people's staple diet for hundreds of years. He took a liking to pasta that, on his return journey to Venice in 1295, he taught his countrymen the (Chinese) art of making it.

WORD WATCH

Lomi : from the Chinese *lo* ('stew') + *mi* ('noodle').

PDI – July 7, 2001

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Department of Science and Technology
PHILIPPINE ATMOSPHERIC GEOPHYSICAL AND ASTRONOMICAL SERVICES ADMINISTRATION (PAGASA)
Asiatrust Bank Bldg., 1424 Quezon Avenue, Quezon 1104

STAND Philippines2000

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

Bidding Date : August 3, 2001
Pre-Bid Conference : July 17, 2001
(WFFC Conference Room)

Processor Module
Ink Cartridge
Meteorological Balloon
Supply & Delivery of Hydrogen Gas
Partial Construction of 6.0 x 10.0 m Single Storey Building

Interested parties are invited to apply for eligibility and to submit sealed bids on the above using **TWO ENVELOPE SYSTEM** to be opened publicly at the Conference Room of the Weather & Flood Forecasting Center (WFFC), PAGASA, Agham/BIR Road, Diliman, Quezon City.

Bid requirements will be issued at the PAGASA Records Section, 4th Floor, ATB Bldg., 1424 Quezon Avenue, Quezon City upon presentation of this advertisement clipping, together with the company's TIN on **July 10, 2001**.

Bidding documents will be issued by the BAC Secretariat from **July 16-17, 2001** at the Records Section, 4th Floor, ATB Bldg. to those parties who applied and considered eligible to participate in the bidding.

Only eligible bidders shall be invited to the Opening of Bids on **August 3, 2001** at 2:00 p.m. at the WFFC Conference Room, PAGASA DIC Bldg., Agham Road, Diliman, Quezon City. Bids should be accompanied by a 2.5% Bidders Bond in the form of Cash, Manager's Check or GSIS Bond, callable on demand within 120 days from the bidding date.

All inquiries concerning this invitation to bid should be addressed to the Chairman, PAGASA-BAC.

The PAGASA reserves the right to reject any or all bids for any reason of its own, waive any formality therein when necessary and to accept complying offer considered most advantageous to the government.

(Sgd.) **ELLAQUIM A. ADUG**
Chairman PAGASA-BAC

(PDI - July 7, 2001)

OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT
NATIONAL HOUSING AUTHORITY

NOTICE OF DISPOSITION

The National Housing Authority is inviting offers to purchase/lease by way of sealed bids the following commercial and industrial properties on an "As Is - Where Is" basis:

A. FIRST TENDER

ITEM NO.	DESCRIPTION	LOCATION	BASE PRICE/SQM
001-062	62 lots, 170 to 298 sqm. With TCTs	Brgy. Pandacaqui, Mexico, Pampanga	PhP 1,500.00 to PhP 1,650.00
063-064	2 lots, 1,289 sqm. & 1,340 sqm.	Bagong Nayon II Sites & Services Proj., Antipolo City	PhP 5,000.00 & 14,000.00

B. SECOND TENDER

ITEM NO.	DESCRIPTION	LOCATION	BASE PRICE/SQM
001-008	8 lots with areas ranging 132.55 to 300.77 sqm.	Phase I-B, Karangalan Village, Pasig City	P80.00-P83.00
009	1 lot, 4,623.65 sqm.	Phase III-C, (Camino Vecinal Rd.) Karangalan Village, Pasig City	P100.00
010	1 lot, 10,177 sqm. with Bldg. 2,692.01 sqm.	Sapang Palay, Resettlement Proj. San Jose del Monte, Bulacan	Land - P3.00 Bldg. - 11.00
011	1 lot, 7,515 sqm. with Bldg., 1,512 sqm.	Dasmariñas, Bagong Bayan Resettlement Proj., Cavite	Land - P20.00 Bldg. 2 - P10.00

Interested parties may lease one/any or all of the lots offered, details of which may be secured for a non-refundable fee of PhP200.00 from the COINBAC c/o CIED, Mezzanine Floor, NHA Building, Diliman, Quezon City. For inquiry, please call Tel. Nos. 923-0390, 922-3001 & 928-4561 Loc. 302-303.

SCHEDULE	SECOND TENDER	FIRST TENDER
A. Submission of Pre-Qualification Requirements	09 July to 23 July 2001 until 5:00 p.m. CIED, Mezzanine Flr. NHA, Elliptical Rd., Q.C.	09 July to 30 July 2001 until 5:00 p.m. CIED, Mezzanine Flr. NHA, Elliptical Rd., Q.C.
B. Pre-Bid Conference	18 July 2001, 10:00 a.m. Operations Center (O.C.) 3rd Flr. NHA, Ellpical Rd. Quezon City	19 July 2001, 10:30 a.m. (for Pampanga properties) NHA Maimpis Proj. Office San Fernando, Pampanga 20 July 2001, 10:00 a.m. (for both properties) O.C., 3rd Flr.
C. Submission of Sealed Bids	25 July 2001, until 12:00 nn O.C., 3rd Flr.	01 Aug. 2001, until 12:00 nn O.C., 3rd Flr.
D. Opening of Bids	25 July 2001, 1:30 p.m. O.C., 3rd Flr.	01 Aug. 2001, 1:30 p.m. O.C., 3rd Flr.

The NHA reserves the right to reject any or all bid offers or any part thereof or to waive any required formalities and accept offers most advantageous to the interest of NHA.

(Sgd.) EDGARDO D. PAMINTUAN
General Manager

(PDI - July 7 & 14, 2001)

National Power Corporation
Generation Company 1
161 Bonifacio Drive Port Area, Manila 1018

GENCO-1

INVITATION TO PREQUALIFY AND TO BID

(PQ0301RCC-002)

The GENCO-1 Regional Contracts Committee (RCC) is inviting contractors to prequalify and to bid for the **SUPPLY OF ONE (1) SERVICE ENGINEER FOR THE ASSESSMENT AND PERFORMANCE TEST OF TWO INDUCED DRAFT FANS (IDF's), TWO FORCED DRAFT FANS (FDF's) AND TWO PRIMARY AIR FANS (PAF's) OF BATANGAS COAL-FIRED THERMAL POWER PLANT UNIT NO. 1.**

Application for prequalification is open to all local firms who have completed at least five service contracts of major fans of Coal-Fired Thermal Power Plants with a capacity of not less than 300MW.

Prequalification Forms shall be available for issuance starting **July 4 to 17, 2001** at the Contracts Management Office (CMO), 3rd Floor, NPC GENCO-1 Building, 161 Bonifacio Drive, Port Area, Manila. Applicants shall be issued Prequalification Form upon presentation of original copy of the applicant's DTI and/or SEC Certificate, together with the Letter of Intent and payment of a non-refundable fee of **Two Hundred Pesos (P200.00)** per copy.

For purposes of prequalification and bidding activities, the following schedule will be observed:

• Submission of Prequalification Documents	- July 20, 2001	- 8:00 AM to 5:00 PM
• Issuance of Bid Documents	- August 01, 2001	- 8:00 AM to 5:00 PM
• Pre-bid Conference	- August 03, 2001	- 10:00 AM
• Submission and Opening of Bids	- August 14, 2001	- 10:00 AM

The NPC reserves the right to reject any or all bids without offering any reason; waive any required formality therein and to make an award to the bidder whose proposal is the most advantageous to the Corporation. The NPC assumes no obligation to compensate or indemnify the bidder for any expenses or loss that may be incurred in the preparations of bids, nor does it guarantee that an award will be made.

(Sgd.) **LORNA T. DY**
Department Manager, Professional Services
And Chairman, RCC

(PDI - July 4, 7 & 11, 2001)

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OPON-KE CONSTRUCTION AND DEVELOPMENT, INC.

Dad Cleland Avenue,Lapulapu City
Cebu, Philippines

NOTICE OF DISSOLUTION OF OPON-KE CONSTRUCTION AND DEVELOPMENT, INC.

NOTICE is hereby given that the amended articles of incorporation of **OPON-KE CONSTRUCTION AND DEVELOPMENT, INC.** shortening the term of its existence and thereby dissolving the said corporation as of **31 May 2001** and a balance sheet showing that no creditors thereof will be affected by such dissolution have been filed with the Securities and Exchanges Commission. All persons having claims against the corporation are requested to present the same as its principal office at **Dad Cleland Avenue, Lapulapu City, Cebu,** for immediate settlement.

This announcement will serve as a notice to all parties concerned of the legal dissolution of the said corporation.

Cebu City, Philippines on 15th of June 2001.

(Sgd.) **ANTONIETA S. ALFANTE**
Assistant Corporate Secretary

(PDI - June 30, July 7 & 14, 2001)

Republic of the Philippines
NATIONAL POWER CORPORATION
GENCO 1

INVITATION TO BID

GENCO 1 01-006 (PB)

The Generation Company 1 (GENCO 1), with office at NPC Old Building, 161 Bonifacio Drive, Port Area, Manila, invites interested NPC accredited suppliers to bid on the items listed below. The opening will be conducted on **July 20 & 23, 2001** at 10:00 AM, 1st floor, Bidding Room. Price quotation in Philippine Pesos preferred.

DATE OF BIDDING — JULY 20, 2001

REFERENCE	BRIEF DESCRIPTION
0106-045-TES	40 drums, Hydrazine Hydrate (N_2H_4), Assay 35% N_2H_4 min., Liquid Form, Technical Grade, pH of 1% solution 9.9, straw-colored which deepens upon exposure to light, packing 200 kgs/drum (drum should be of polyethylene plastic material)
0106-046-TES	1 lot, S/P for Fire Fighting Booster Pump, Pump Type/Model MR-100-4 Multi-stage, closed type impeller, single suction centrifugal pump, Manufactured by Furukawa Co., Ltd., consisting of 24 items
0106-047	25 boxes Fastener, for heavy duty conveyor belts std., stainless steel + carbon steel staples, Titan IR #26 PN T10010626B & Titan IR #22 PN T10010622B and 15 pcs. Flexible Armoured Stainless Steel Connecting Pin, 7.0 mm dia. for 1400 mm belt width, PN AXE607011400 and for 1050 mm belt width, PN AXE607011650, Preferred Brand GORO
0106-048	1 lot, Various items for building maintenance, consisting of 26 items
0106-049	6 pcs., Reamer, size 65 mm dia. x 500 mm long, Manufactured by Toshiba Corporation
0106-050	1 lot, Copper Tube, 1 1/4" & 3/4" x 10', Copper Tee, 1 1/4", Copper Elbow, 90º, Copper Reducer, 1 1/4" - 3/4" and Gate Valve, G.I., 1 1/4"
0106-051	17 pcs., Red, High Density Linear Polyethylene, sizes 1 1/2" dia. x 8' L, 2" dia. x 8' L & 4" dia. x 6' L
0106-057-TES	1 lot, S/P for 230 KV SF6 Gas Breakers, Manufactured by ABB Alstom, Industry, Inc., consisting of 86 items
0106-065-TES	17,000 liters, Strongly Acidic Cation Exchange Resin, Amberjet 1200 Na, Amberlite or its equivalent of the Dowex, Lewatit or Dianex Brands and Strongly Basic Anion Exchange Resin, Amerjet 4200 Cl, Amberlite or its equivalent of the Dowex Lewatit or Dianex Brands
0106-066	40 drums, Ammonium Hydroxide (Ammonia Water) NH_4OH_2 Liquid Form, Technical Grade, Assay 23% Amonia min. Packing 130 kgs/drum (drum should be of polyethylene plastic material)
0107-001	1 lot, Various Hardware, Painting, Plumbing Roofing and Carpentry Materials
0107-002-TES	10 kits, Vulcanizing/Splicing Kit, for rubber conveyor belt 4/5 ply, EP 100/200, 1400 mm belt width, gum thickness 0.5, 1.0 and 2.5 mm , gum width 300 mm, gum length/thickness 0.5, 1.0 & 2.5 mm - 5m
0107-003-TES	22 pcs., S/P for Pneumatic Valve Positioner, Type 3570C, Ref. SN J45748, Input Signal 0.2-1.0 kg/cm2, Positioner Action Reverse Acting, Range Spring PN 1H6920-000A2, Bias Spring PN 1H693227012, Manufactured by Fisher Control, consisting of 9 items
0107-004-TES	4 pcs., Weighing Module Assembly, High Temperature Electronic Weight, PN AC19125-1 & AC19125-2, Manufactured by Stock Equipment Co.

DATE OF BIDDING — JULY 23, 2001

REFERENCE	BRIEF DESCRIPTION
9806-072-TES	1 lot, S/P for Microrec Control System, Manufactured by GEC-Alstom consisting of 52 items
9910-086-TES	2 units, Motor Compressor, 10 TR, 230 V, 60 Hz, 3-phase, 1800 rpm, 44.3 FLA, Motor #06DD12573, Serial #91439967, Model # (06DA) - A3370DA3200, Carrier Air Conditioning Co., USA and 15 TR, 460 V, 60 Hz, 3-phase, LRA-173, Carlyle - 06E2250310, Mfg. # 4EAABC2D2H30, Mtr. #C4603A4, Serial # 3096J03519, for Carrier 30GT040-070, Flotronic Reciprocating Liquid Chillers, 30 TR Cap.
0007-040-TES	1 lot, Data Acquisition System (DAS) Electronic Cards and Accessories, Manufactured by Mitsubishi Corp., consisting of 24 items
0007-041-TES	1 lot, S/P for Diasys-Functional Group Control (FGC) System & Accessories (UCS & BSC Electronic Components), Manufactured by Mitsubishi Corp., consisting of 24 items
0009-004	3 pcs., Transformer, Type T-1AB, 300 VA capacity, 1-phase, 50/60 Hz and Lamp Holder with bulb, Primary, 200/220 V, 50/60 Hz Lamp 18 V, 2 W, Brand IDEC, Japan, Coal Feeders Spare Parts & Accessories, Manufactured by EG & G Berthold
0011-034-TES	1 set, Horizontal Pivot Scraper, P1B 167, for HP 1103 Mill, Manufactured by ABB-CE Services, Inc.
0103-041	1 lot, Industrial Degreaser, dissolves grease, oil, tar and other organic soils, Chesterton 274, 20 liters/pail or equivalent, Contact Cleaner, cleans electronic equipment, motorized instruments, control panels, electrically driven equipment motors and other parts, Chesterton 286, 353 ml/aerosol can or equivalent and Penetrating Oil, high qualit,', fast acting, penetrating oil which reaches deeply-in and frees nuts, bolts and fittings without injury to the base metal
0103-063	2 rolls, Repair Strip, with fabric and with CN bonding layer on one side, 150 mm wide x 10 m long/roll
0104-013-TES	1 pc., Turbine Room Sump Pump, Type TSE-VS, Capacity 20 t/h, SS3600 rpm, Casing & Impeller Stainless Cast Steel (SCS14) & Shaft Stainless Steel (SUS316) including accessories
0104-019	6 pcs., Sheet Plate, mild steel, size 1" x 4' x 8', free of deformation, indentation and rusts
0104-033-TES	1 job, Supply of labor, materials, tools, equipment supplies and supervision for the complete rebuilding and repair of shaft sleeve for four (4) units grinding rollers of double roll grinders
0104-039-TES	1 lot, Various Boiler Tubes, consisting of 12 items
0105-013-TES	2 pcs., High Speed Electric Actuator, Model EPR for EPR-REC 920 BFP-T Control System, complete with actuator Rod and Servo Valve Position Feedback Transmitter (LVDT), Differential Transformer Type Position Sensor on Servo Actuator, Manufactured by Alstom
0106-005	1 job, Supply of labor services and provision of tools/equipment for the draining, collection, siphoning hauling and transport of fuel oil/sludge from Bataan Thermal Power Plant (BTPP) and Bataan Combined Cycle Power Plant (BCCPP) to Batangas Coal Fired Thermal Power Plant Fuel Oil/Sludge
0106-010-TES	1 lot, S/P for Fairchild Booster Relay, Model 4514, Max. Supply Press. 17.5 kg/cm², Max. Inlet & Outlet Press. 10.5 kg/cm², Manufactured by Fairchild, consisting of 9 items
0106-020	1 lot, Combination Pipe and Bench Vise, heavy duty, outdoor type, Packing Extractor/Hook Set, handy, service-proven special tool for removing stuffing box packing and Packing Ring Cutter, complete with Extension Scale Special tool for cutting packing rings
0106-021-TES	1 lot, Combustion Boat, PN 529-203, 100 pcs/pack, Inner Combustion Tube, PN 606-313 and 1% Coal Sample, PN 501-005, 50 g/bot., Consumables of SC-432 DR Sulfur Analyzer, Manufactured by LECO Corporation

Bid documents will be available to accredited suppliers starting **July 9, 2001** and may be secured from Materials Management Division during working days from 9:00 AM - 4:00 PM upon payment of P 25.00 for ONE ENVELOPE SYSTEM and P 50.00 for TWO ENVELOPE SYSTEM.

Sealed bids must be in triplicate and shall be accompanied by Bidder's Bond equivalent to 5% of the total bid price in the form of Cash, Manager's/Cashier's Check, Irrevocable Letter of Credit, Bank Draft/Guarantee or Surey Bond from GSIS Insurance Commission.

The corporation reserves the right to reject any or all bids, waive any defect or informality contained therein and accept the bids considered most advantageous to the corporation.

For further information, please call 527-4861, 527-4873, 527-4892.

(Sgd.) **LORNA T. DY**
Manager
Professional Services Department

(PDI – July 7, 2001)

Republic of the Philippines
SOCIAL SECURITY COMMISSION
Makati City

JOSEFINA ALFORQUE,
Petitioner,
- versus - SSC CASE NO. 1-14457-96
CLAUDIA ALFORQUE and
LOURDES ALFORQUE,
Respondents,
SOCIAL SECURITY SYSTEM,
Intervenor.
x -- x

NOTICE OF RESOLUTION ENTERED

TO: MS. CLAUDIA ALFORQUE

GREETINGS:

Notice is hereby given that on the 6th day of June 2001, a **RESOLUTION**, consisting of 4 pages, was entered in the above-mentioned case, the dispositive portion of which reads as follows:

> "**IN VIEW OF THE FOREGOING**, the Motion for Reconsideration filed by respondent Lourdes Alforque is hereby denied for lack of merit.
>
> SO ORDERED."

SOCIAL SECURITY COMMISSION

(PDI – July 7, 2001)

PHILIPPINE HEART CENTER
East Avenue, Quezon City
is now accepting applications for

Fellowship for Academic Year 2002 (with specific requirements)

I. Adult Cardiology
- 3 years Residency in Internal Medicine accredited by PCP
- PCP Diplomate

II. Pediatric Cardiology
- 3 years Residency in General Pediatric accredited by PPS
- At least passed written examination for Diplomate in Pediatrics by the PPS

III. Thoracic And Cardiovascular Surgery
- 4 years Residency in General Surgery accredited by PCS
- Must have passed certifying examination given by the PBS
- At least qualified to take such certifying examination and the submission of the result of the in-service training examination

IV. Pulmonary Medicine
- 3 years Residency in Internal Medicine accredited by PCP

V. Anesthesiology
- 3 years Residency in General Anesthesia accredited by PBA (board eligible); Diplomate of the Philippine Board of Anesthesiology
- Must have passed departmental interview and pre-fellowship evaluation
- 3 month (October to December) pre-fellowship (except for graduates of the Philippine Heart Center Anesthesia Residency Program).

VI. 1 Year Clinical Research Fellowship for Non-Invasive Cardiology, Invasive Cardiology, Cardiac Rehabilitation, Critical Care Medicine, Electrophysiology, Peripheral Vascular Medicine, Pediatric Invasive and Non-Invasive Cardiology, Thoracic & Cardiovascular Surgery and Pulmonary Medicine.

1 Year Fellowship Program for Radiology, Nuclear Medicine, and Biological and Clinical Laboratory.

Residencies for Academic Year 2002
(Requires satisfactory completion of Q.U.E.R.T./DOH examinations and passing of the Medical Boards.)

I. Radiology
II. Nuclear Medicine
III. Biological and Clinical Laboratory

General Requirements for Application for Fellowship & Residency:

1. Medical Diploma
2. Transcript of Records with the General Average
3. Itemized Board Rating
4. Three (3) Letters of Recommendation (coming from different doctors including Training Officers/Directors application)
5. Four (4) pcs. 2"x2" picture colored
6. Certificate of Residency in required specialty
7. Specialty Board Certificate in required specialty

Please address your communication to:

JOSE A. YULDE, M.D.
Assistant Director
Office of Education and Research
Philippine Heart Center
East Avenue, Quezon City

* *Deadline for submission of application is on August 31, 2001.*
* *Academic Yeaı 2002 starts on January 1, 2002.*

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dti
DEPARTMENT OF TRADE & INDUSTRY PHILIPPINES

REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES
DEPARTMENT OF TRADE AND INDUSTRY

INVITATION TO QUALIFY AND BID

The Bids and Awards Committee for Information Technology Resources of the PCs for Public High Schools Project (BAC-ITR for PCPS) of the Department of Trade and Industry is inviting interested Original Equipment Manufacturers (OEMs) or OEM distributors to qualify and bid for the supply, delivery and installation of computer package consisting of 20 PCs, 2 printers, 1 external CD ROM drive, and 1 modem for each of the 1,000 public high schools. The Project is funded by the Government of Japan under the Non-Project Grant Assistance.

Bid documents may be obtained from the Office of Special Concerns c/o Dir. Dita Maralit / Lydia Guevarra, at the 5/F, DTI Building, #361 Sen. Gil Puyat Avenue, Makati City, during regular office hours (from 8:00 AM - 5:00 PM) from July 9 to July 20, 2001. Deadline for the submission of Qualification Requirements is on July 30, 2001.

A pre-bid conference will be held on Monday, July 23, 2001, 8:00 AM at the 40-Seater Conference Room, 4/F, BOI Building, #385 Sen. Gil Puyat Avenue, Makati City.

The BAC-ITR reserves the right to reject any or all bids without assuming any obligation whatsoever to offset expenses or losses the bidder may incur in the preparation of its bids, and will entertain only such bid/s established to be most advantageous to the Government.

(Sgd.) **TOBY MELISSA MONSOD**
Chair, BAC-ITR for PCPS

(PDI – July 7 & 8, 2001)

Republic of the Philippines
OFFICE OF THE OMBUDSMAN
Old NAWASA Building • 76 Arroceros Street • 1000 Manila, Philippines

INVITATION TO PREQUALIFY AND TO BID

The Office of the Ombudsman is inviting prospective bidders to prequalify and to bid for the following office requirements.

82 **Janitorial/Clerical/Special Skills Services**

SCHEDULE OF BIDDING

1. PRE-BID CONFERENCE - 13 July 2001 @ 9:30 AM
2. DEADLINE OF SUBMISSION
   a. Prequalification Requirement - 18 July 2001 until 9:30 AM
   b. Technical Proposals - 18 July 2001 until 9:30 AM
   c. Financial Proposals - 18 July 2001 until 9:30 AM
3. OPENING OF BIDS
   Technical Proposals - 18 July 2001 @ 10:00 AM
   Financial Proposals - 25 July 2001 @ 10:00 AM

Accreditation requirements and bidding documents may be secured from the Property Management Section/General Services Division, Ground Floor, 176 Old NAWASA Building, Arroceros Street, Manila.

Bidding documents will be issued to prequalified bidders upon payment of non-refundable fee of SEVEN HUNDRED FIFTY PESOS (P750.00).

Financial proposals shall be accompanied by a bidder's bond either in the form of GSIS Bond, Cashier's/Manager's Check and/or Cash Bond of at least 2.5% of the total bid price.

The Office of the Ombudsman reserves the right to reject any or all bids, waive any defect or informality, assume no obligation whatsoever to compensate or indemnify the bidders for any expense or loss that they may incur in the preparation of their bid and to accept the bid most advantageous to the office.

(Sgd.) **ROMEO I. TAN**
Chairman
Bids and Awards Committee

(PDI – July 7, 8 & 9, 2001)

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Monday to Sunday
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Day before publication

Julie Abad Rufino

January 24, 1916 – July 6, 2001

Died peacefully in the Grace of the Lord on July 6, 2001
after receiving the last sacraments.

Her loving husband **Rafael R. Rufino** (†); children: **Manny** & **Vicky, Raffy, Tony** & **Mita, Guilly** & **Boots, Asunta, Marivic** & **Paeng, Joey** & **Ching.**

Grandchildren: **Jay, Charles, Michelle; Pay** & **Bunny, Alfie, Maritoni** & **Roque, Kai, Ara, Jinno; G.P., Carlo, Angelo, Georgina; Tom, Iggy; BR** & **Michelle; Rufus** and **Junn;** and great grandchildren.

Her sister and brothers, nephews and nieces.

Her remains lie in state at Capilla Dela Virgen, Santuario de San Antonio in Forbes Park.

Funeral Mass will be celebrated at 2:00 p.m. on Monday, July 9, 2001.

In lieu of flowers, donations to St. Mary's House for young girls, Tagaytay would be appreciated.

Card of Thanks

The family of

Crisanta G. Tanjuatco

(November 1,1914 - May 29, 2001)

thanks all those who offered prayers and Masses, sent flowers, kept vigil and who in various ways expressed their sympathies over our loss.

Your kindness has been a source of strength and much comfort. May the good Lord bless you.

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OBITUARY REQUIREMENTS
❶ Copy of Death Certificate ❷ Any identification document (I.D.)
• DEATH ANNOUNCEMENT • MESSAGE OF THANKS •
• DEATH ANNIVERSARY • REQUIEMS • FREE OBIT DESIGN •

MESSAGE OF THANKS

We, the family of the late

Caridad Dario Bello

of Candon, Ilocos Sur

who passed away in the Grace of the Lord on June 21, 2001

wish to express our heartfelt gratitude and sincerest appreciation to all those who offered Masses and prayers, sent flowers and messages of sympathy and who in countless ways, condoled with and comforted us in our hour of bereavement.

My beloved children
Giselle Rosetta, Marco Rinaldo, Gianpaolo,
***Franco Carlo;** relatives, friends and everyone*
whose heart and life I have touched,
will be comforted to know
that your friend,

VITTORIO CLARETTE

has joyously departed for
another lifetime of loving,
"A little while, a moment of rest upon the wind,
and another woman shall bear me."

My ashes, now at
No. 7 Jupiter Street, Phase 3-A Palmera
Northwinds City, San Jose Del Monte, Bulacan
shall mingle with Mother Nature
at 12:00 noon on July 7, 2001.

In Loving Memory
on the 8th Death Anniversary of

CLAVELINA C. MAÑALAC

"Beling"

81, of Bayombong, Nueva Vizcaya
d. 08 July 1993
md. D. Rodolfo L. Mañalac, Sr. (†)
2 daughters, Norma and Josie
2 sons, Rudy and Ding

"Mama, Our Model of Simplicity and Dedication"
Your Memory Brings Us Comfort and Joy

Masses will be offered at the following churches on 08 July 2001

St. Dominic's Cathedral
(Bayombong, Nueva Vizcaya) .... 6:00 a.m.
Sta. Maria Della Strada
(Katipunan corner Pansol, Quezon City) .... 10:30 a.m.
Monastery of St. Clare
(C5, Katipunan Overpass, Quezon City) .... 6:30 a.m.
St. Joseph's Shrine
(Aurora Boulevard, Project 3, Quezon City) ..... 10:00 a.m.
Our Lady of the Miraculous Medal
(Project 4, Quezon City) .... 6:30 p.m.
Our Lady of Perpetual Help
(13th Avenue, Cubao, Quezon City) .... 7:30 a.m.

May we request the pious reader to pray
for the eternal repose of her soul.

The family of the late

ARMANDO "MANDY" YCASIANO ARAGON

who passed away on July 4, 2001
at the age of 73

wishes to inform relatives and friends that his body lies in state at La Funeraria Paz Chapel, G. Araneta Avenue, Quezon City.

Interment will be on Sunday, July 8, 2001 at Himlayang Pilipino, after the 9:00 a.m. Mass at La Funeraria Paz Chapel.

CONSOLACION VERZOSA FONACIER

Died in the Grace of our Lord on July 3, 2001
at the age of 72.

Her bereaved husband **Isidro M. Fonacier**; children, sons- and daughters-in-law, grandchildren, great grandchildren, nephews, nieces, relatives and friends request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of her soul.

Her body lies in state at St. Peter Memorial Chapels, Quezon City.

Cremation, today, 9:00 a.m. at Funeraria Paz, Araneta Avenue, Quezon City.

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"...absent
with the
body to be
present
with the
Lord."
Matthew 10:39

LEONARDA UTCHINGCO VDA. DE SALVADOR

of Sto. Niño, Marikina City

Passed away in the Grace of our Lord on July 6, 2001 at the age of 90.

Her faithful and loving children **Baby, Dodie** and **Perla, Jun** and **Lita,** and **Zeny;** together with her grandchildren, sister **Dra. Patrocinio Utchingco;** sisters, brothers-in-law, other relatives and friends request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of her soul as she is born into Eternal Life.

Her remains lie in state at Funeraria Guzman at 343 J.P. Rizal Street, Sto. Niño, Marikina City.

Interment will be on Sunday, July 8, 2001 at 10:00 a.m. at the Loyola Memorial Park, Marikina City after the 9:00 a.m. Mass at Funeraria Guzman.

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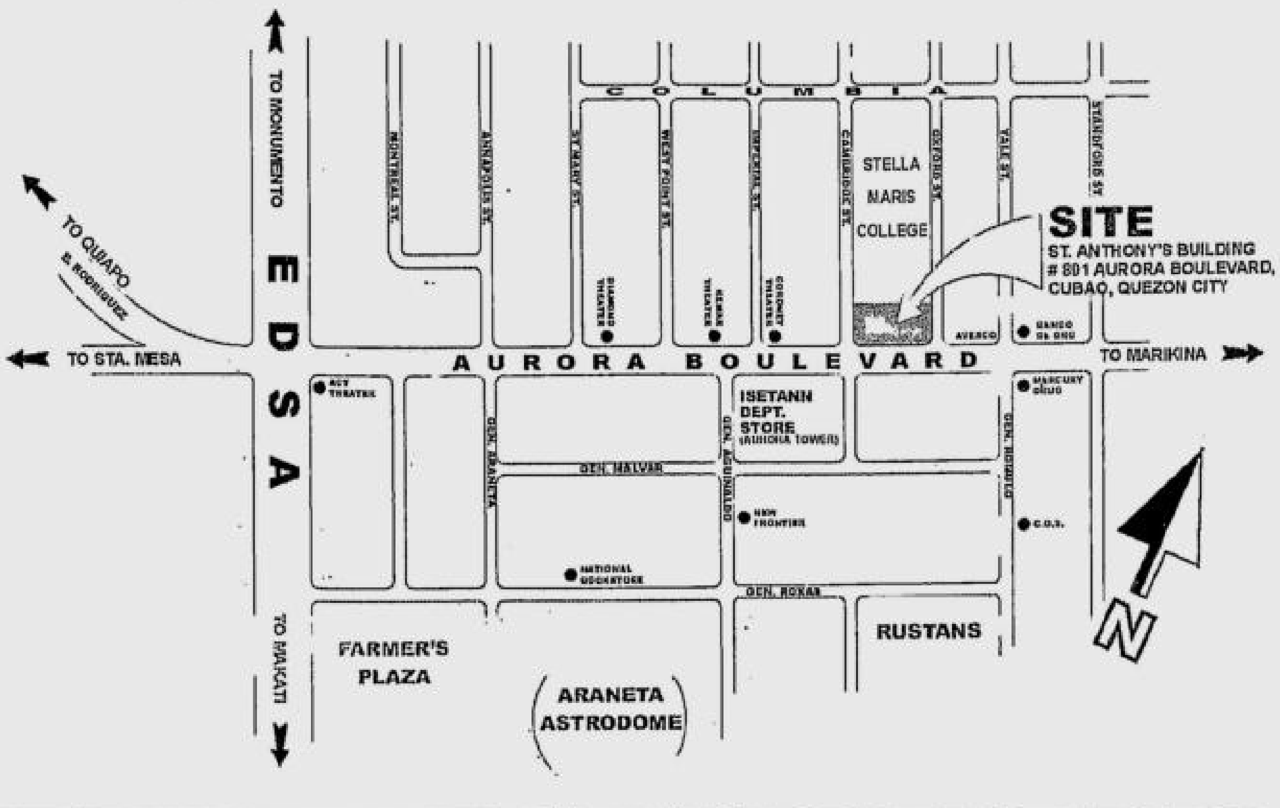
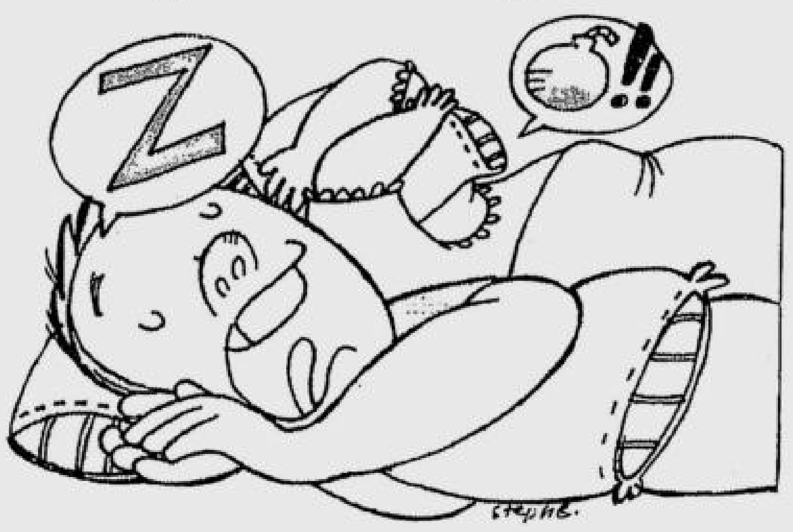


SCIENCE /HEALTH

CESAR D. MANGAWANG, Editor ■ STELLA O. GONZALES, Assistant Editor

Clinical basis for spotting obstructive sleep disorders upcoming

BY TESSA R. SALAZAR



HOW serious is a sleep disorder?

After decades of study by sleep specialists worldwide, findings show that more than 50 percent of sleep disorders are brought about by breathing abnormalities during sleep at night, and the real culprit is what is called obstructive sleep apnea syndrome.

Obstructive sleep apnea is a repetitive cessation of breathing when you sleep. You actually stop breathing when you sleep, and this happens over and over again in the course of one night. This repetitive cessation of breathing is usually associated with loud snoring. It's so loud that the bed partner—even neighbors—can't sleep. People, who suffer from this struggle to breathe again and again, make restful sleep impossible. This also usually leads to a sluggish day for the sufferer.

People, who suffer from obstructive sleep apnea, are also susceptible to other health risks such as stroke, hypertension and heart problems. Some patients could actually die from sleep disorders.

How would you know if you have a serious sleep problem?

Not sleeping on the job

Sadly, no genuine Philippine data is available to measure the extent or the prevalence of sleep disorders in the country. The good news is Filipino sleep specialists, particularly from the St. Luke's Medical Center, are not sleeping on the job. They're about to come out with a definitive research paper on sleep disorders.

These sleep specialists have devised a clinical gauge for all doctors nationwide—regardless if they are sleep specialists or not—measuring a patient's sleep disorder's severity and thus determine if the problem needs further medical attention. The gauge is called the sleep apnea clinical scoring system.

Scoring system

The clinical scoring system would be the basis that primary care physicians can use. Sleep specialist Dr. Mercy Antoinette Gappi of the Philippine Society of Chest Physicians, cited some of the parameters of the scoring system for physicians to detect right away if a patient is a candidate for further treatment for serious sleep disorders. These parameters include snoring, obesity or BMI (Body Mass Index), and daytime sleepiness.

Gappi told the INQUIRER the sleep apnea clinical scoring system could be used nationwide, especially in the provinces.

"It is important (for doctors in the provinces) to be able to recognize (serious sleep disorder) so they can already do necessary procedures. Then they can send the patient to Manila. When a patient scores negative for sleep apnea, then there's no need for this patient to undergo expensive tests."

If certified, the scoring system would be the first gauge for sleep disorder in the Philippines.

The focus for the study and treatment of severe sleep disorders was almost entirely on St. Luke's Medical Center, which served as the only referral center from 1992 to 1999. The hospital has sufficient technical know-how, equipment and staff. From 1999 onward, Makati Medical Center and other hospitals opened their own sleep laboratories.

Minimal cost

This clinical scoring system, composed of questionnaires, can be distributed nationwide. Not only can specialists validate the severity of the disorder in individual patients, the scoring system can be used to know the prevalence of sleep apnea in the adult population for a minimal cost.

Otherwise, a conventional laboratory-confined validation study alone involving 50 patients would already cost P600,000. St. Luke's study involving 100 patients amounted to P1.3 million. The validated study, however, also revealed 62 percent of the patients had sleep apnea. The age range of the group was from 20 to 75. The majority of the ages ranged from 30 to 50 years, which would represent the most productive years of a person's life.

The results of the study are being finalized and a detailed report will be published in several medical journals.

Kids snore, too

Children are not spared from sleep disorders. Pediatrician Dr. Roland de la Eva said there are two types of sleep disorders in children: nonrespiratory and respiratory.

Dela Eva also said that even newborn infants and toddlers snore.

"When a person snores, there's some degree of air obstruction. But the important thing is to determine if the snore is primary wherein it does not have any effect on the physiology of an individual."

Science in the 21st century: NAST silver jubilee

(First of three parts)

EUREKA!

Queena N. Lee-Chua

NEXT week at the historic Manila Hotel, the National Academy of Science and Technology (NAST), the premier government institution dedicated to the development of local science, will hold its 23rd annual scientific meeting. Though relatively little known to the public, many Filipino scientists have made significant discoveries in various fields. Aside from showcasing their work, this conference aims to come up with policy recommendations that may help address important science issues in the Philippines today.

Six plenary sessions on the first day, July 11, give us an overview of the diversity of Filipino scientific talent. Though two among the six speakers are mainly based in the United States, both have significant ties with the Filipino scientific community. One of them is Dr. Baldomero "Toto" M. Olivera Jr., a distinguished professor of Biology at the University of Utah. Even though I have yet to meet him personally, through extensive interviews with his colleague Dr. Lourdes "Luly" J. Cruz of the Marine Science Institute of UP Diliman, I have come to admire his ingenuity.

Both Toto and Luly are perhaps best known for their significant work on sea snail toxin venom (conotoxins). I described their experiences in "Ten Outstanding Filipino Scientists" (Anvil, 2000).

Toto Olivera graduated summa cum laude in chemistry from UP in 1960 and obtained his Ph.D. in biophysical chemistry from the California Institute of Technology in 1966 after working with Dr. Norman Davidson on the electrophoretic properties of DNA. He worked as a postdoctoral fellow (of the Damon Runyon Fund) at the Stanford University School of Medicine for two years, where he continued *E. coli* DNA research, and returned to the Philippines to become a research associate professor at the College of Medicine at UP Manila. At that time, through his foreign contacts, Toto was able to secure some grants for research. However, chemicals were difficult to order and equipment was outdated, making it impossible for the Philippines to compete with other countries. Toto counseled Luly to concentrate on experiments that could be properly done locally and suggested that they work with the various *Conus* species, especially *Conus geographus* and *Conus striatus*. The rest, as they say, is history.

Aside from conotoxins, Dr. Olivera participated (and continues to participate) in the then emerging field of biotechnology. Specifically, he was involved in the discovery of DNA ligase, an enzyme essential for cloning and recombinant DNA technology. However, his most recent research revolves around molecular neuroscience. A scientist who has contributed to diverse fields, Dr. Olivera will discuss "Accomplishments and Contributions in the Field of Biochemistry in Relation to Health."

Dr. Eduardo A. Padlan, who had worked as a research physicist at the US National Institutes of Health until his retirement in 2000, is now (I am proud to say) an affiliate professor of the School of Science and Engineering of the Ateneo de Manila University. He is also a visiting professor at the College of Science of UP Diliman. He obtained his bachelor's degree in physics from UP Diliman in 1960 and his Ph.D. in biophysics from Johns Hopkins University in 1968. His main research interest has been the structure and function of proteins, in particular, antibodies and other molecules of the immune system. He has authored more than 125 scientific publications, including a monograph on Antibody-Antigen Interactions. He is currently collaborating with various groups in the country to study the use of antibodies against human and plant diseases. It is no wonder that his talk will center on "Engineering Antibodies for Human Therapy."

What is its significance to our lives? According to Dr. Padlan, antibodies can be produced against almost any substance and, what's more, they are very specific for these substances, making them a marker of sorts. Because of this property, antibodies can be used in detection and isolation of specific substances, among others. In medicine, antibodies have long been used as antitoxins, as a diagnostic tool, as a means to prevent transplant rejection, as a treatment of cancer, asthma, autoimmune disease, and so on.

He continues, "The production of large amounts of pure antibody needed for these applications has been made possible by the advent of hydridoma technology, by recent advances in molecular biology, cell culture and genetic engineering techniques, and by the use of transgenic animals and plants for protein expression. Antibody molecules are often engineered to provide them with more desirable properties. For example, antibodies derived from nonhuman sources are usually 'humanized' prior to use in human therapy. Also the size of the molecule, its valence, its reactivity, even its stability, could be altered by judicious structural manipulations."

Dr. Amador C. Muriel, director of the Center for Fluid Dynamics in Subic, Olongapo, is working on perhaps one of the most controversial issues of all—his molecular theory of turbulence. Through the years, many physicists I have conversed with either agree or disagree with his contentions, though they all give him credit for creativity and ingenuity, and they all agree that his theory has opened new directions in turbulence research, whose impact is yet to be determined. Dr. Muriel has published several papers in Physica D, Physical Review A & E, Journal of Experimental and Theoretical Physics. To confirm or reject his theory, several experiments are now being conducted around the world including in Russia, France and the United States.

A summary of his talk on "A Molecular Basis for the Onset of Turbulence" states: "We analyze existing data on the onset of turbulence for pipe flow in the light of a molecular theory for the onset of turbulence. In contrast to the use of derived quantities for characterizing the onset of turbulence, such as the Reynolds number, we restrict our data and analysis using observable quantities such as molecular properties and critical velocities. We find a rationale for a molecular origin of turbulence, in contrast to the exclusive use of continuum theory."

Aside from turbulence research, Dr. Muriel is also active in information technology and nonequilibrium statistical mechanics. He is also an astronomer—his stellar dynamics articles have been published in Astronomy and Astrophysics.

(To be continued next week)

Queena N. Lee-Chua, Ph.D. is an associate professor of mathematics and psychology at the Ateneo de Manila University. She writes the column "Mind Games" for www.inq7.net *and hosts the show "Fun with Math" on PTV-4. She can be reached at* blessbook@yahoo.com.

The case of the secondhand smoke

BY RAFAEL R. CASTILLO, MD

MEDICAL FILES

(First of two parts)

LIZA couldn't understand what Dr. Renato Dantes, her family internist, just told her when she followed up with him at the National Kidney Institute. He diagnosed her to have chronic obstructive pulmonary disease most likely due to smoking. How can she have it, when she hasn't smoked a single cigarette all her life; Liza shook her head in disbelief.

Liza is a hardworking teacher, mother and housewife. She sleeps late finishing the house chores and preparing for the next day's teaching lessons. She wakes up at 4 in the morning; cooks her husband's and children's breakfast as well as prepares packed lunch; and leaves the house before 6 so she can be in school for the flag ceremony at 7 in the morning.

This has been her routine for the last 12 years since she married Jay, her childhood sweetheart. Jay works as an insurance sales agent. He goes home straight from work; he does not gamble or drink alcohol; and he saves all the money he can for his family. He is essentially a good family man except for one vice. He smokes more than a pack per day, and would do so even inside their house and their bedroom, beside Liza while they watch television.

Lost cause

During the early part of their marriage, Liza complained a lot about his smoking and would nag him until he promised to quit smoking. Jay did quit smoking more than a dozen times; and equal number of times, the cigarette stick has lured him back. Liza thought it was a lost cause and gave up.

Since a few months ago, she started having on and off cough productive of yellowish phlegm. The phlegm would be most copious in the morning on waking up. At night, Liza would sometimes cough incessantly and would have sleepless nights. She complained of shortness of breath and easy fatigability, and would feel all drained out before lunch, with still an afternoon class to handle. Hence, she decided to consult Dr. Dantes, who requested for a series of tests.

"Based on our laboratory tests, it looks like you have chronic bronchitis, a form of chronic obstructive pulmonary disease or COPD. The most common cause is smoking. This is hard to understand and accept for a nonsmoker like you. But you see, Liza, smoking can cause you serious harm, and you don't even have to light up a stick yourself," Dr. Dantes said, and for Liza, he sounded like he was talking in medical riddles. Until he proceeded to explain…

Secondhand smoking

"Constantly inhaling someone else's smoke, also known as passive or secondhand smoking has also been associated with respiratory problems, as well as cancer, cardiovascular and other diseases. Top this with the toxic pollutants in the air we unwittingly feed our lungs with every day, the scenario looks grim even for nonsmokers." Dr. Dantes' words came like a guilty verdict for someone who is innocent of the crime she is charged with.

Jay could only listen intently as Dr. Dantes proceeded with his thorough explanation cum admonition, on how nonsmokers can develop COPD.

"I hate to accuse you, Jay. But you're partly responsible for Liza's lung problem. Think of how it affects your wife and children, or any person sitting in the same room with you—that poor innocent nonsmoker—who is a totally unknowing victim as you puff out a fog with your cigarette. Contrary to the arguments of cigarette smokers and manufacturers, environmental tobacco smoke called ETS or secondhand smoke still contains significant contaminants, cancer-producing substances and toxins which can cause serious health hazards.

Here's more bad news: you are as likely to be affected in a packed barroom as in a home where only one family member smokes. The risk of health problems, particularly COPD, doesn't increase or decrease according to levels of exposure—simply because there is no safe level of exposure for anyone.

Frequently misdiagnosed

More common and complicated than asthma (and frequently misdiagnosed as such), moderate and severe COPD afflicts more than a quarter of a million Filipinos. If you include mild cases of COPD, it would likely run to several millions. Since its symptoms are frequently diagnosed and treated as asthma or smoker's cough, it's likely that Filipinos who have COPD don't find out that they have it until after they visit their lung doctor. Unfortunately, some become aware of the disease when it's already too late."

Dr. Dantes went on to explain that COPD is a progressively disabling disease. It hits heavy smokers, and most often, men in their 40s who have been smoking for more than 10 years. Though a smoker may be 30 times more prone to develop COPD than nonsmokers, those who haven't puffed a cigarette in their life, like Liza, are not immune from the disease. In a recent study made by a group of lung experts in the Middle East evaluating a mixed group of active smokers, ex-smokers and nonsmokers in the community, COPD was seen in 7.4 percent of nonsmokers, 19.4 percent of ex-smokers and 29.5 percent of active smokers.

Air pollution is the biggest ally of smoking in causing respiratory ailments. Environmental polluting components of gas emissions such as carbon monoxide and sulfur dioxide also predispose nonsmokers to the development of COPD. Studies of hospital admissions for COPD in the elderly conducted in Detroit, England, and Barcelona have also shown association between COPD and increase in known air pollutants including carbon monoxide, oxides of nitrogen, black smoke, acid aerosols and suspended microparticles (especially those smaller than 10 mm in diameter, or PM-10). Significant respiratory problems associated with the increase of PM-10 were also seen in a nonsmoking community in California.

Individuals who work in an "airborne exposure environment," such as miners and welders, are also at risk for COPD, even without the presence of cigarette smoke. A Norwegian study identified the culprits as dust, particles of quartz, silica, metal gases, byproducts of aluminum production and processing, and welding. The study showed that even in nonsmokers the occupational exposure was certain to cause lung impairment.

The World Health Organization and other international health experts, however, agree that smoking and inhaling secondhand smoke are many times more powerful in causing COPD. When someone smokes a cigarette, only about half the smoke goes directly into the smoker's lungs. The rest of the exhaled smoke—plus the smoke and particulates from the lit cigarette—drift into the environment and is inhaled by the nonsmoking individuals. These particulates remain suspended in the air even after the smell and smoke of the cigarette are long gone. In fact, nonsmoking spouses of smokers are 24 percent more likely to develop lung cancer than those in nonsmoking marriages.

(To be continued next week)

At the onset of flu, don't self-medicate.

Sudden onset of fever? Coughing? Chills? Weakness?
Muscle and joint pains?
You could have contacted the flu virus.

Flu is contagious. It cannot be treated with antibiotics.
Complications like bronchitis, pneumonia and ear infection can even arise.

For people 65 years and older, and those with heart ailment, diabetes, asthma or kidney disease, it can be fatal.

At the onset of flu, don't self-medicate.
Your life may be at risk. Only your doctor can administer the right anti-viral medicine.

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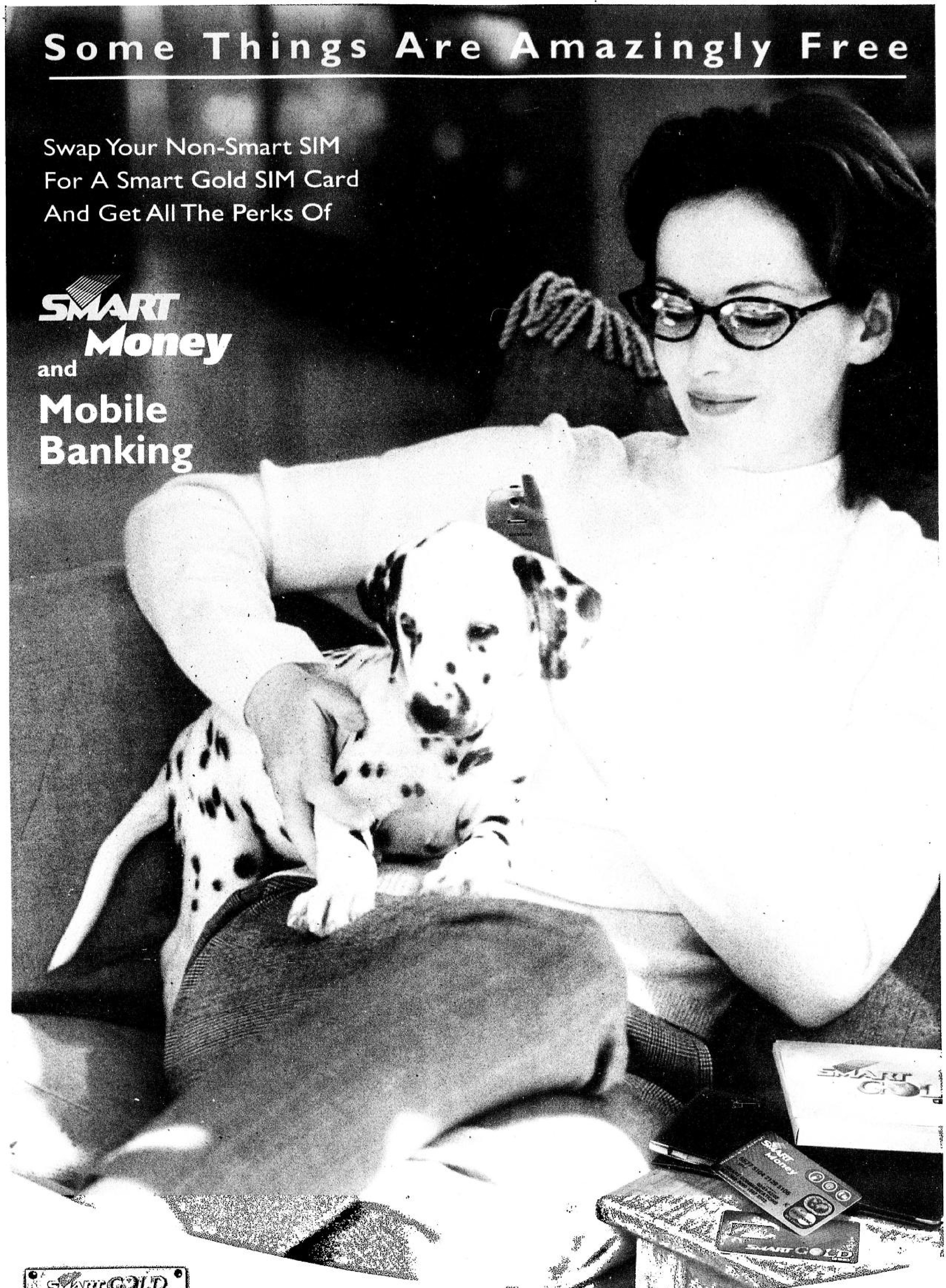

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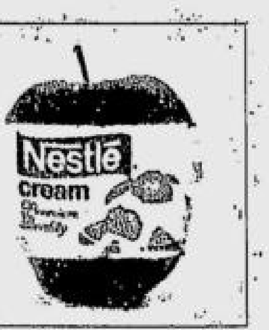

SATURDAY, JULY 7, 2001

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

Saturday SPECIAL

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Fruity Cream Dip

1 170g. can NESTLÉ CREAM
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1/4 cup chopped pineapple, well drained
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1/2 tsp. garlic powder
1/2 tsp. salt
1/4 cup grated cheddar cheese

Combine NESTLÉ CREAM with the rest of the ingredients in a blender. Chill. Serve as a dip for slices of fresh fruits.

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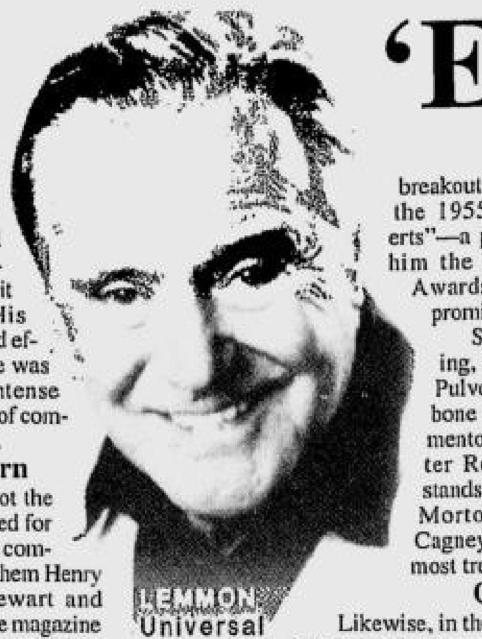
cream

Watch out for next week's fruity treat!

Jack Lemmon was Hollywood's great urban 'Everyman'

BY STEVE GORMAN



LEMMON Universal appeal.

LOS ANGELES—From put-upon corporate underling in "The Apartment" and hapless traveler in "The Out-of-Towners" to his Oscar-winning role as a beleaguered businessman in "Save the Tiger," versatile actor Jack Lemmon was Hollywood's consummate American everyman.

Lemmon, who died on Wednesday at age 76 of complications from cancer, was remembered for bringing an almost twitchy nervous energy and intense humanity to dozens of big-screen performances—funny as well as tragic.

Anxieties

Critics were united on Thursday in praising Lemmon for capturing the frustrations, anxieties and small triumphs of the urban, post-War average guy.

"He was an everyman, but he was also an American everyman, and because of that, he could play a business executive or a schnook, and everything in between," said film critic Leonard Maltin of the television show "Entertainment Tonight."

"He could project intelligence as easily as he could project simple-mindedness."

In addition to his versatility, Lemmon wowed audiences and critics alike by making it all look easy. "His work always seemed effortless, whether he was doing the most intense drama or the silliest of comedies," Maltin said.

More modern

While he was not the first movie star hailed for his portrayals of the common man—among them Henry Fonda, James Stewart and Gary Cooper—Time magazine critic Richard Schickel said Lemmon was distinctly urban, and more modern.

Whereas actors like Fonda and Stewart "had an air of an older, small-town America that informed them and projected them into a world they were sometimes uncomfortable with," Lemmon "played guys with suits and ties and an office to go to."

"He reflected a lot of concerns of post-War America," Schickel said of Lemmon. "They were just manifest in his face and body language."

And nobody could make the worm turn like Lemmon, as demonstrated by his supporting breakout role as Ensign Pulver in the 1955 classic "Mister Roberts"—a performance that earned him the first of two Academy Awards and propelled him to prominence.

Starting out as the dithering, conniving ship's officer, Pulver goes on to grow a backbone with inspiration from his mentor—Henry Fonda as Mister Roberts—and ultimately stands up to the tyrannical Capt. Morton, played by James Cagney in one of Hollywood's most treasured moments.

Courage

Likewise, in the 1979 drama "The China Syndrome," his portrayal of a nuclear plant executive who refuses to go along with the cover-up of an accident embodies the image of an ordinary man showing courage in an extraordinary situation.

"He's the ultimate everyman," Schickel said. "Who better to cast in that part?"

Some of Lemmon's best work emerged from his longtime collaboration with legendary writer-director Billy Wilder, starting in 1959 with the comedy romance "Some Like It Hot," in which he played a nightclub musician who, with Tony Curtis, dresses in drag to elude the mob.

"Billy Wilder saw in (Lemmon) a perfect instrument for his writing because he could be real and funny at the same time," Maltin said.

It was Wilder who first teamed Lemmon with the man who would become his favorite comic foil, Walter Matthau, in "The Fortune Cookie" (1966). That pairing led to a lifelong friendship between the two actors and seven more movies together, including Neil Simon's "The Odd Couple."

But it was Wilder's 1960 serio-comic "The Apartment" that established Lemmon's signature screen persona as an earnest but naive wannabe buffeted by outside forces and his own manic nature as he struggles to climb the corporate ladder.

Extramarital affairs

Co-starring Shirley MacLaine and Fred MacMurray, Lemmon played a sniveling insurance company clerk who hopes to win the favor of his superiors by loaning out his apartment for their extramarital affairs, only to fall for the latest girlfriend of his own boss.

Again playing a befuddled white-collar antihero in the 1970 remake of the "The Out-of-Towners," Lemmon endures a litany of big-city abuse—a mugging, a police chase, an exploding manhole cover and a broken tooth—when a visit to New York for an important job interview turns into a comic nightmare.

His dramatic specialty playing troubled men thwarted by circumstances and their own human failings was most notably brought to bear in "Save the Tiger" (1973), as the dressmaker who goes to desperate lengths to stay in business. That role won Lemmon his second Oscar, this time as best actor.

Maltin said Lemmon also was notable as an actor who was not afraid to take on challenging, varied roles late in his career—an American businessman searching for his activist son in South America in "Missing" (1982), the craven, aging real estate huckster in "Glengarry Glen Ross" (1992) and his Emmy-winning TV movie performance as Morrie Schwartz, the irrepressible college professor gradually succumbing to Lou Gehrig's disease, in "Tuesdays With Morrie" (1999).

Matthau's son, Charlie, who directed both his father and Lemmon in the 1995 film "The Grass Harp," said Lemmon, like his father, possessed an intimate, universal appeal.

"It wasn't like going to the movies and seeing somebody who was bigger than life," he said of Lemmon. "I think he reminded people of somebody they knew in their life and liked." *Reuters*

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Meet Joey Cosby

FACE TO FACE

Inday Badiday

MIRACLES still do happen. And God, in His boundless love and wisdom, effects them in the lives of both saints and sinners alike. How else can one explain the most extraordinary event in the life of grizzled veteran radio broadcaster Joey Galvez except to call it that—a miracle?

American soldier

For the first three decades of his life, Joey didn't know his father was an American soldier, much less that he was still alive. Everytime he asked his mother about him, she either scolded him for being too inquisitive or conveniently peddled the lie that the father he never knew was long dead and buried.

As a child, he visited the cemetery of each new place he found himself in, and spent long hours reading the names on the tombstones, hoping to read his father's. Whenever he found an unmarked grave, he fantasized that his father's bones were interred there.

But he could never have found his father's name on any of the cemeteries he went to, because his father was still alive. Also, he thought his father was a Galvez, but he was already 30 years old when he learned that his father's name was Fred Cosby.

The revelation came from a cousin who also disclosed to him that his father was in the US Army, an automotive mechanic stationed in the American barracks in San Andres Bukid, Sta Ana, Manila at the tail-end of the Second World War.

Joey's mother was a *labandera* servicing the laundry needs of the US service men. She met this dashing army man and they fell in love. She was six months pregnant with Joey when all the American soldiers were hauled back to the US because the war was over. That was in 1946.

For a while, Joey's mom fed on the promises of the uniformed man who told her he'd come back for her—but he never did. It isn't hard now to understand why she decided to simply "kill" his memory forever—for the sake of her sanity and, she must have believed at the time, also that of her infant child.

When Joey first learned the truth about his father, he immediately sent inquiries to the US Veterans Administration, the US Congress in Washington DC, the US Army and the International Red Cross. They all asked for his father's social security number and/or serial number, which Joey naturally didn't have. He also sent a letter to Hollywood comedian Bill Cosby who replied that his was just a screen name.

Years flew by and Joey continued to yearn for his dad. Still, he went on with his life. He made a career of his soothing baritone and flair for humor, which goes well with the early-morning slot of his current radio show ("Loveline," 2-4 a.m., Monday-Saturday, DZMM).

Then, last February, a quarter of a century after he first learned about his father, Joey toyed with the idea of going to the US.

Listeners

He says, "I wanted to go mainly because my US visa was expiring. I casually related this to my listeners and I was pleasantly surprised when a lot of them responded positively.

"I have a following in the US because of The Filipino Channel, which airs DZMM programs there. I had listeners from Oregon, Texas, Las Vegas, San Francisco, San Diego and Los Angeles who sent me money and round-trip tickets just so I could go to the US."

Just before he left, his mother told him she remembered that his dad was from Indiana and that his middle initial was "L." The hope that continued to burn in Joey's heart all through the years suddenly blazed brightly with this new information.

When he arrived in the US, Joey first touched base with his generous sponsors and had a great time. On the eve of his departure back to Manila, he asked a nephew in Chicago to go to Indiana, which was a mere 30-minute drive away, and make some inquiries. The nephew learned that there were two Fred L. Cosbys in Indiana and he promptly gave their contact numbers to Joey.

"My feet may not know how to dance the *tinikling* but my heart was dancing at that time," Joey quips.

Excitement

"Trepidation and excitement mixed as I dialled one number," Joey recalls. "It was an answering machine. I left a message just the same. I said, 'Hi, I'm Joey Galvez from the Philippines. I'm looking for my dad. His name is Fred L. Cosby. If you are my dad, please call me at this number.' He did not call, so I went back to Manila the following day."

When Joey returned to Manila, a call from his Aunt Matty, his dad's sister, was waiting for him. So it came to pass that last March 4, he was able to talk to his father—and on-air on his radio show at that, the better to share his joy with his listeners who had helped make this miracle possible.

"I asked him, 'Dad, can I call you dad?' he replied, 'Son, can I call you son?' At that very moment, I was the happiest 55-year-old child in the world!"

Last May 28, after his Fil-American listeners once more chipped in enough dollars for his fare and pocket money, Joey Cosby was reunited with his US family.

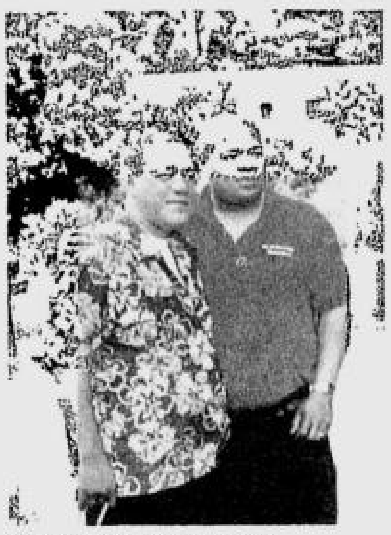
Birthday

"I celebrated my birthday with them," Joey's eyes moisten at the memory. "I have four children. I know everything there is about a father's joy that comes from his child's kisses and warm embrace. But I don't know anything about the bliss a child feels when hugged tightly by his father.

For the first three decades of his life, Joey Galvez didn't know his father was an American soldier. Then, last February, he found himself celebrating his 55th birthday with his dad in the States

"The time I was with my dad was the happiest nine days of my life. He's 79 years old now. He was a sprightly twentysomething when he left my mother. But the years that have been stolen away from us by fate don't matter anymore.

"Finally, my life is complete. The restlessness that used to inhabit my heart is gone. In its place now lives the joy that comes from knowing that God, despite my smallness, has deemed me worthy of this magnificent miracle!"



JOEY with brother Eric.

JOEY (middle) with his dad (left) and uncle Clifford.

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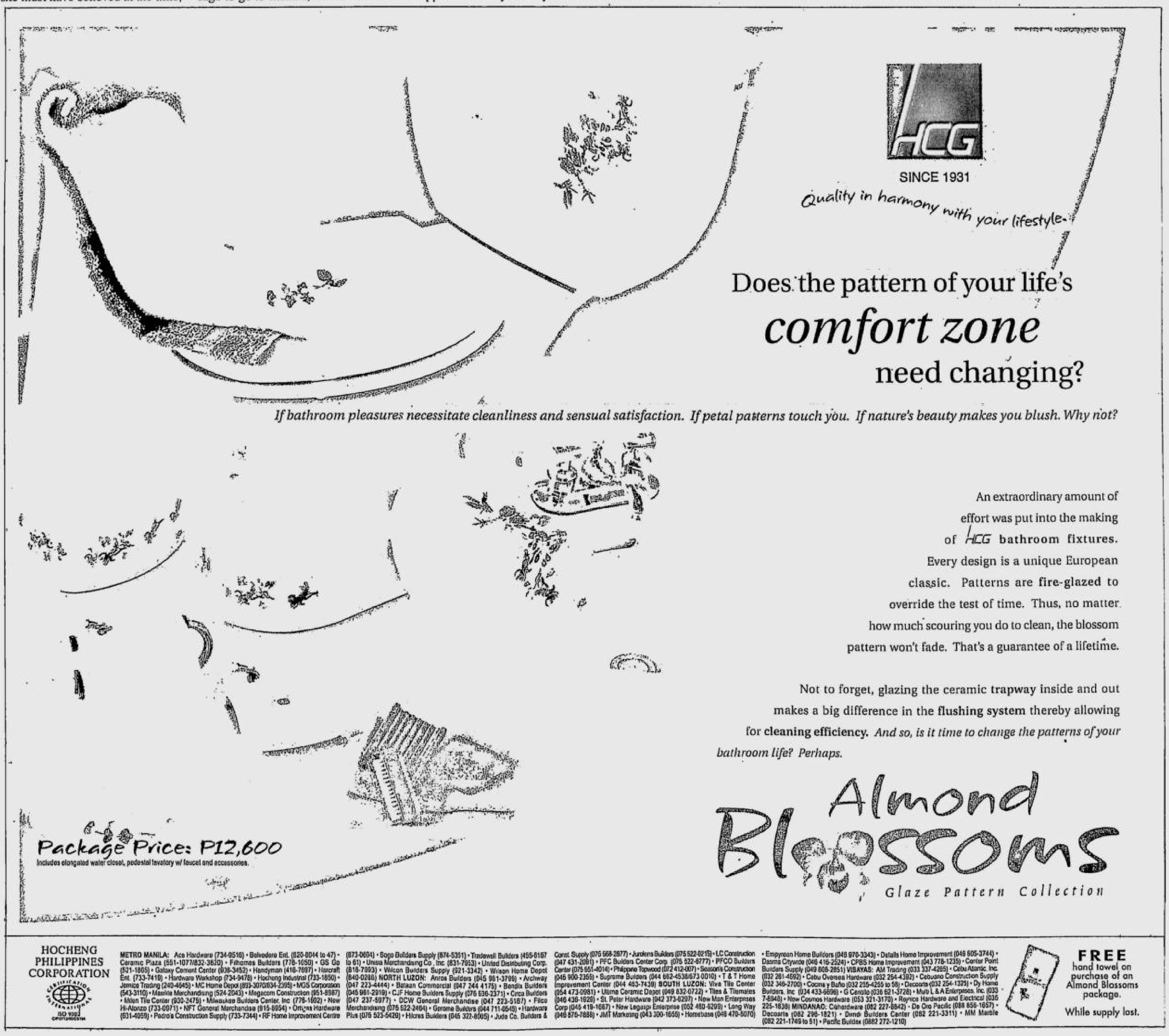
BESIDE the welcome billboard put up by his American family.

WITH his sisters Brenda and Vivian.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10 YEARS AGO

Young male stars relaunched as action heroes

By Noelani Torre

ACTION stars and their explosive stunts dominated entertainment headlines 10 years ago, what with all the young leads being launched and Robin Padilla planting a facer on Richard Gomez.

Living up to his tough guy, bad boy image, Robin threw a punch at the astonished Richard in the then recent Star Olympics. Apparently, the former resented the comments several show biz writers (allegedly from the latter's camp) were making about his being too much of a softie (*lampa*) to join the Star Olympics.

Fracas

Cousin Rudy Fernandez, then president of the Screen Actors' Guild, was trying to mediate between the two when suddenly Robin let loose with his fists. The ensuing fracas did nothing at all to promote the goals of the Star Olympics cooperation and camaraderie among actors.

Robin was criticized by their colleagues in the industry who bemoaned their bad boy's hot temper. Fans of Robin, however, cheered the actor on for his "macho" move.

Meanwhile, in the reel world, Philip Salvador played a cop in Moviestar Films' "Uubusin Ko ang Lahi Mo." Directed by Pepe Marcos with screenplay by Humilde "Meek" Roxas, the movie was based on the popular dzRH radio serial by Bernard Cannberal. Here, according to the critics, was another movie with the Philip Salvador trademark - "action films *na may puso*."

It tells the tale of a decades-long feud between two families, with one family losing all its members. Philip is Peping Guerrero, a cop who is a member of one of the two families. The movie also starred Eddie Gutierrez, Michael de Mesa, and Kevin Delgado as members of the *kontrabida* family; Robert Arevalo as Philip's father and Maricel Laxa as his girlfriend.

New venture

This movie was a new venture for Maricel Laxa who had never tried doing action before. "I'm thankful that Philip is my first kissing partner on screen. He's such a gentleman who won't take advantage of a girl," said the actress. She also enjoyed playing a cop and doing the "*barilan, habulan* and *bakbakan*."

Other action newcomers 10 years ago were Raymart Santiago, Ian Veneracion, and Zoren Legaspi. The youngest of the talented Santiago brood, Raymart was being relaunched as an action star after performances in light comedy and teeny-bopper roles.

His launching vehicle was Viva Films' "Noel Juico, 16: Batang Kriminal." Based on a true story, the movie was written and directed by Deo Fajardo, who was also the discoverer of action superstars Rudy Fernandez and Robin Padilla.

Raymart proved his ability by performing tricky action stunts like driving a car being chased by the bad guys with a baby in one hand and numerous fight scenes in the mud. He also had passionate love scenes opposite Pinky de Leon, Sheila Ysrael, Maureen Mauricio and Ana Atienza (all older than him) which he carried off with aplomb. "I like kissing older women," he joked.

Cameo role

Also starring were Edu Manzano and Daniel Fernando, with Robin Padilla in a cameo role. All in all, a fitting 18th birthday present for the young star.

Fellow teener Ian Veneracion was also jumping on the action bandwagon with "Zaldong Tisoy." Ian was thought to have the upper hand in terms of looks but Raymart's character was deemed more interesting by critics. Another young would-be action star was Zoren Legaspi, playing the lead role in "Pretty Boy Hoodlum."

This sudden onslaught of teen action stars in bad boy roles was attributed to a desire to follow in Robin Padilla's successful footsteps, or should we say fist fights? Unfortunately, lucrative though it might be, they didn't give the youth who watched their movies much choice in terms of good role models.

SANTIAGO. Tricky stunts.

In the comedy scene, Eric Quizon turned movie producer after several stints in TV production with "Buddy en Sol, Sine Ito." The initial offering of Quizon's Kaizz Ventures, the movie was based on the popular RPN-9 comedy series which was, in turn, based on the American series "Perfect Strangers."

Directed by Boots Plata and Leo Martinez, it starred Quizon and Redford White in the title roles, and Aiko Melendez and Maritoni Fernandez as their respective love interests.

Special guest appearance

Dad Dolphy made a special guest appearance as a show of support and Quizon also tapped show biz friends Richard Gomez, Gretchen Barreto, Jackielou Blanco and Roderick Paulate to play special roles.

In other entertainment news, Sharon Cuneta and Gabby Concepcion reunited on-screen for the 10th anniversary of their love team in the romantic melodrama "Una Kang Naging Akin." Produced by Viva Films and directed by Laurice Guillen, it was based on the *komiks* novel by Helen Meriz. ***(To be concluded)***

How to be truly liberated and happy

WHEN government leaders and rich people talk about saving poor people from their poverty, are they qualified to preach to the masses about how to be truly liberated? Are they happy? Are they worth following? Is their recipe for success true-blue?

I would like to share with you this story that brings into focus the fact that many people's values are actually upside down and that the modern concepts of progress, success and wealth have been perverted and twisted:

How poor are we?

One day, a very wealthy man took his son on a trip to the country to show him how poor people could be. They spent a couple of days on a poor family's farm.

LOTUS POND

R. Valencia and S. Bismark

Upon their return the father asked his son, "How was the trip?" "It was great, Dad." "Did you see how poor people can be?" the father asked.

The son answered, "I saw that we have one dog and they have four. We have a pool that reaches to the middle of our garden and they have a creek that has no end. We have imported lanterns in our garden and they have stars at night. Our patio reached to the front yard and they have the whole horizon.

"We have a small piece of land to live on and they have fields that go beyond our sight. We have servants who serve us, but they serve others. We buy food, but they grow theirs. We have walls around our property to protect us and they have friends to protect them."

The boy's father was speechless.

Then his son added, "Thanks, Dad, for showing me how poor we are!"

Indeed, there are many poor people living even in elite subdivisions. Poor people have also inhabited Malacañang Palace They are so starved and empty that they feel they have to hoard wealth beyond their basic necessities.

Selfishness

Due to selfishness, not only are they deprived of wisdom and nature's wonderful gifts but they are also empty of love for God and others. They are devoid of spiritual vision, compassion and life.

If we want a truly happy existence, let us live simply and, with our valuable time, seek out the wealth that will not be taken away from us. The treasure that will not rust exists and can be possessed by the sincere and humble spirit-soul who has a natural right to such wealth. Just as we need food for the body, we need nourishment for our self, the living soul inside our body.

Let us learn from the sages and not from fake leaders who don't know right from wrong. By heeding the right sources, we can attain happiness. This is true progress, liberation and success in life.

More bar tours and movie premieres from Joey

EXPECT more bar tours and blockbuster movie premieres from Joey @ 92.3 FM this month.

Take your pick from cool jazz rhythms, captivating movie themes to hot tunes by top artists in Joey's bar tours. Listen to Richard Merk as he sings in "Jazz Jivin' with Joey" at Monk's Dream on Jupiter st., Makati City every Monday, at 9 p.m. (July 9, 16, 23, 30).

Then catch your favorite movie themes in "Reel Rhythms" with Mood Swings every Wednesday night (July 11, 18, 25) at 8:30 at the Greenbelt Mall Food Court, courtesy of National Sports Grill.

Over at Hard Rock Café, Joey brings you "Acoustic Nights" on July 12, 19 and 26 starting at 9 p.m. with Bituin Escalante and Acoustic Jive.

Blockbuster flicks

Joey's Movie Series, on the other hand, premieres five blockbuster flicks starting out with "Along Came A Spider" at the Cinema 6 of Glorietta IV on July 9 at 7:30 p.m. and "Dr. Doolittle 2" on July 10 at the Greenbelt Cinema 2.

Also watch out for the Joey premiere of the monster hit "Jurassic Park 3" at the Cinema 6 of Glorietta IV, 7:30 p.m. on July 23.

Fashion show

"Moulin Rouge," starring Nicole Kidman and Ewan McGregor, then hits the big screen on July 24 at Glorietta IV, Cinema 6. A fashion show inspired by the look of the film will spice up the presentation.

Finally, Joey presents "Bridget Jones' Diary" at Cinema 6 of Glorietta IV on July 31 at 7:30 p.m. There will also be fun make-overs, advice booths and fortune-telling courtesy of Cosmopolitan Magazine, Ralph Lauren and Haagen-Dazs.

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YOUR WEEKLY TV GUIDE FROM JULY 7 - JULY 13

CH	2	4	5	7	9	13	23	29	E!31
	5:30 Magandang Gabi, Bayan 7:00 Arriba, Arriba 8:30 Da Body en Da Guard 9:30 Pinoy Exposed 10:00 Keep on Dancing 11:00 "F" 11:30 Sports Unlimited 12:00 The Weekend News	6:00 Auto Review 6:30 Uncut 7:00 The Working President 8:00 Sound of Love 10:00 Explore with Mike 11:00 National Network News 11:30 Auto Focus	6:00 Vampires 6:30 Sailormoon Super S 7:00 Tropang Trumpo 8:00 Ispup 9:00 Saturday Night Specials *Pavarotti and Friends '99* 11:00 Diagnosis Murder	5:30 Brigada Siete 7:00 Idol Ko Si Kap 8:00 Kakabakaba 9:00 GMA's BEST 11:00 Master Showman Presents 12:30 GMA Network News 1:00 The 700 Club	6:00 Sports World 7:00 Invisible Man 8:00 Martial Law 9:00 Saturday Night Playhouse 11:00 Business Class	7:00 Viva Premiere Night 9:00 Kagat Ng Dilim 10:00 2001 PBA Commissioner's Cup Provincial Game	6:00 Born Free 7:00 Lassie 7:30 Seventh Heaven 8:30 Gilmore Girls 9:30 Studio 23 Presents 12:00 MYX	3:00 Q Show Case 7:00 Xclusive Cinema Special 9:00 Oras ng Katotohanan 9:30 Armor of God 10:00 Oh Tokyo 11:00 Pinoy Wrestling	6:00 CBS Evening News 6:30 E! Coming Attractions 7:00 Celebrity Profile 8:00 E! True Hollywood Story *Jenny Jones* 9:00 E! Special 10:00 David Letterman 11:00 Uncut *Jennifer Love Hewitt* 11:30 Extreme Close Up 12:00 E! Coming Attractions
	5:30 Knowledge Power 6:00 Sharon 7:00 Wansapanataym 8:30 Eto na ang Susunod na Kabanata 9:30 ABS-CBN Presents 11:30 The Weekend News	3:00 MBA 8:00 Primetime Specials 10:00 National Network News 10:30 Fashion Watch 11:00 Business & Leisure	6:00 Sinbad the Sailor 6:30 Guyferd 7:00 Sing-Galing 8:00 Wow Mali! 9:00 Eezy Dancing 10:00 Sunday Night Movies *The Last Hit* 12:00 Sentinel	5:30 Partners Mel and Jay 7:00 Bitoy's World 7:30 GMA Telesine 9:30 Sunday Night Box Office 11:30 Che-Che Lazaro Presents 12:00 GMA Network News 12:30 Little Night of Music	6:00 Shadow Raiders 6:30 Crash Zone 7:00 Ripley's Believe It or Not 8:00 Just Kidding 8:30 Kids Say the Darnest Thing 9:00 Sunday's Big Event 11:00 Sunday Report	4:00 2001 PBA Commissioner's Cup Game 1 6:30 PBA Game 2 9:00 Sinemaks 11:30 El Shaddai	6:00 Starship Troopers 6:30 Rugrats 7:00 Batman Beyond 7:30 Futurama 8:00 The Nanny 8:30 Spin City 9:00 Will & Grace 9:30 Jack & Jill 10:30 Digital Tour 11:00 Sunday Night Movies	5:00 Quartermaster Window Shop 7:00 Sunday Mini-Series 8:00 Oh Tokyo 9:00 Sunday Night Movies 11:00 Bikini Open	6:00 CBS Evening News 6:30 E! Coming Attractions 7:00 E! True Hollywood Special *Roseanne* 9:00 E! Special 11:00 The Best of 60 minutes 12:00 E! Coming Attractions
	6:00 TV Patrol 7:00 Pangako sa 'Yo 7:30 Sa Dulo ng Walang Hanggan 8:00 Sa Puso Ko, Iingatan Ka 8:30 Kaya ni Mister, Kaya ni Misis 9:30 Your Honor 11:00 Headlines 11:30 Correspondents 12:30 Martin Late@Nite	5:30 Pambansang Balita 6:00 To be announced 8:00 Rich Girl 10:00 National Network News 11:00 Philippine Open	6:00 F 6:30 Mahha Go Go Go 7:00 Guni-Guni 8:00 The Big Night *Running On Empty* 10:00 The Big News 10:30 High Tide 11:30 The Big News (Replay)	6:00 Saksi 6:30 Ikaw Lang ang Mamahalin 7:00 Lupin III 7:30 Pinoy Blockbusters 9:30 Kiss Muna 10:30 Front Page 11:00 I-Witness 12:00 The 700 Club	5:30 Arangkada Xtra Balita 6:00 Quinceañera 6:30 Siempre Te Amare 7:00 Maria del Cielo 7:30 Sparks 8:00 World's Most Amazing Videos 9:00 The X-Files 10:00 Primetime Balita 10:30 NYPD Blue	7:30 NBA Action 8:00 Who Wants To Be A Millionaire? 9:00 Viva Proudly Presents 11:00 Ronda Trese 11:30 Good Take	6:00 MYX 7:00 I Dream of Jeannie 7:30 Making the Band 8:00 Dawson's Creek 9:00 Charmed 10:00 News Central 10:30 Points of View 11:30 Grapevine 12:00 MYX	4:30 Quartermaster 6:30 Q Showcase 7:30 Oras ng Katotohanan 8:00 Q Showcase 9:00 Ang Dating Daan 10:00 Q Showcase	6:00 CBS Evening News 6:30 E! News Daily 7:00 In Focus 8:00 Mysteries & Scandals 8:30 Search Party 9:00 Fashion Emergency 9:30 E! News Daily 10:00 60 Minutes 11:00 Wild on *Mexican Riviera* 12:00 Talk Soup
	6:00 TV Patrol 7:00 Pangako sa 'Yo 7:30 Sa Dulo ng Walang Hanggan 8:00 Sa Puso Ko, Iingatan Ka 8:30 Oka Tokat 9:30 Regal Presents 11:00 Headlines 11:30 Mission X 12:30 Martin Late@Nite	5:30 Pambansang Balita 6:00 To be Announced 8:00 McLeod's Daughter 10:00 National Network News 11:00 Philippine Open	6:00 Dragon League 6:30 2 Years Vacation w/ Dinosaurs 7:00 ABC Action Theater 9:00 That '70s Show 9:30 Life with Roger 10:00 The Big News 10:30 FX The Series 11:30 The Big News (Replay)	6:00 Saksi 6:30 Ikaw Lang ang Mamahalin 7:00 Lupin III 7:30 Kool Ka Lang 9:00 Kasangga 10:30 Front Page 11:00 The Probe Team 12:00 The 700 Club	5:30 Arangkada Xtra Balita 6:00 Quinceañera 6:30 Siempre Te Amare 7:00 Maria del Cielo 7:30 Stark Raving Mad 8:00 Ally McBeal 9:00 The Practice 10:00 Primetime Balita 10:30 Pretender 11:30 Ngayon Na Pinoy	6:30 Bayan Ni Juan 7:00 DMZ TV 8:00 Who Wants To Be A Millionaire? 9:00 NBA Finals (Replay) 11:00 Ronda Trese 11:30 Good Take	6:00 MYX 7:00 The Three Stooges 7:30 Baywatch 8:30 Angel 9:30 Mad About You 10:00 News Central 10:30 Oprah 11:30 Zine 12:00 MYX	4:30 Quartermaster 6:30 Q Showcase 7:30 Oras ng Katotohanan 8:00 Ang Dating Daan (Live)	6:00 CBS Evening News 6:30 E! News Daily 7:00 Celebrity Profile 8:00 E! True Hollywood Story 9:00 Celebrity Homes 9:30 E! News Daily 10:00 David Letterman 11:00 Uncut *Geoffrey Rush* 11:30 Extreme Close Up 12:00 Talk Soup
	6:00 TV Patrol 7:00 Pangako sa 'Yo 7:30 Sa Dulo ng Walang Hanggan 8:00 Sa Puso Ko, Iingatan Ka 8:30 Pwedeng-Pwede 9:30 Kabalikat 11:00 Headlines 11:30 Isyu 101 12:30 Martin Late@Nite	5:30 Pambansang Balita 6:00 MBA 8:00 Ilod: Blaze of Glory 10:00 National Network News 11:00 Business Insight	6:00 Pygmalio 6:30 Time Quest 7:00 Planet X 7:30 Sabrina The Teenage Witch 8:00 Chicago Sons 8:30 Friends 9:00 E.R. 10:00 The Big News 10:30 Phils.' Most Wanted 11:30 Police Academy	6:00 Saksi 6:30 Ikaw Lang ang Mamahalin 7:00 Lupin III 7:30 Beh Bote Nga 9:00 Larawan 10:30 Front Page 11:00 Imbestigador 12:00 The 700 Club	5:30 Arangkada Xtra Balita 6:00 Quinceañera 6:30 Siempre Te Amare 7:00 Maria del Cielo 7:30 Malcolm in the Middle 8:00 Roswell 9:00 Buffy the Vampire Slayer 10:00 Primetime Balita 10:30 Wrestling 11:30 Kasangga Mo Ay Langit	5:00 PBA Game 1 7:30 PBA Game 2 10:00 Blow By Blow 11:00 Ronda Trese 11:30 Good Take	7:00 Twilight Zone 7:30 Survivor 2 8:30 When Hidden Camera Attacks 9:00 Gameplan 10:00 News Central 10:30 Oprah 11:30 The Explorer 12:00 MYX	4:30 Quartermaster 6:30 Q Showcase 7:30 Oras ng Katotohanan 8:00 Q Showcase 9:00 Ang Dating Daan 10:00 Q Showcase	6:00 CBS Evening News 6:30 E! News Daily 7:00 In Focus 8:00 Mysteries & Scandals 8:30 Search Party 9:00 Fashion Emergency 9:30 E! News Daily 10:00 David Letterman 11:00 Wild On *Key West* 12:00 Talk Soup
	6:00 TV Patrol 7:00 Pangako sa 'Yo 7:30 Sa Dulo ng Walang Hanggan 8:00 Sa Puso Ko, Iingatan Ka 8:30 Home Along da Riles 9:30 Maalaala Mo Kaya 11:00 Headlines 11:30 Pipol 12:30 Martin Late@Nite	5:30 Pambansang Balita 6:00 To be Announced 8:00 Rose Against the Odds 10:00 National Network News 11:00 Fora Medica	6:00 Shulato 6:30 Fancy Lala 7:00 Guinness World Records 8:00 Soldier of Fortune 9:00 Burning Zone 10:00 The Big News 10:30 Strangers 11:00 New York Undercover 12:00 The Big News (Replay)	6:00 Saksi 6:30 Ikaw Lang ang Mamahalin 7:00 Lupin III 7:30 1 For 3 8:30 Sinerama 10:30 Front Page 11:00 Debate with Mare at Pare 12:00 The 700 Club	5:30 Arangkada Xtra Balita 6:00 Quinceañera 6:30 Siempre Te Amare 7:00 Maria del Cielo 7:30 Amazing People 8:00 Felicity 9:00 Once and Again 10:00 Primetime Balita 10:30 The Basketball Show 11:30 Police Hour	5:30 NBA 8:00 Who Wants To Be A Millionaire? 9:00 TeleViva Specials 11:00 Ronda Trese 11:30 Good Take	6:00 MYX 7:00 The Green Hornet 7:30 Cineplex 23 9:30 Guide to Urban Living 10:00 News Central 10:30 Oprah 11:30 Travel Time 12:00 MYX	4:30 Quartermaster 6:30 Q Showcase 7:30 Oras ng Katotohanan 8:00 Q Showcase 9:00 Ang Dating Daan 10:00 Q Showcase	6:00 CBS Evening News 6:30 E! News Daily 7:00 Celebrity Profile 8:00 E! True Hollywood Story 9:00 Celebrity Homes 9:30 E! News Daily 10:00 David Letterman 11:00 Uncut 11:30 Extreme Close Up 12:00 Talk Soup
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Malou Santos produces films with power and heart

By Mary Ann A. Bautista

(Conclusion)

MALOU'S first production job shocked her because the movie had several "frontal nudity" scenes. She got sick with pneumonia because she worked long hours. And she had to deal with huge egos. Looking back, however, these struggles honed her skills as a leader. How does she handle her power?

Service

"What power? The higher the position, the harder the service. No one makes a film to gain power, you do it because you love it. It's a big responsibility. You need to work hard. As a producer, I'm a workaholic.

"But it is understandable why a lot of people misunderstand me. I am not a perfectionist, but I always want the best from every project that we undertake. Our credo, excellence with commercial potential, is tricky to implement.

"A lot of day-to-day judgement calls can be controversial but I never had the illusion that my job was easy. No project is half-baked. I also have a big heart. I want fairness in everything I do. Any decision is guided by the test of whether I am being fair or not. I must see the win-win benefits for both sides.

"In this business, the long-term is what you keep your eye on. I want transparency and honesty. The only way you can gain long-standing respect is if you talk and walk straight," she intones.

Star Cinema has veered away from disaster movies because they would rather concentrate on the stories rather than themes. Nope, they're not consciously avoiding a "Muro-Ami" type of film, they just want their movies to tell compelling stories that touch hearts.

Compelling story

"If a disaster film has a very compelling story like 'Lahar,' we produce it, why not? It's the story, no matter where it is set. We have to consider the possible impact of the film on Filipinos. We aim to entertain and educate. We want to leave a lasting impression and espouse values that Filipinos are forgetting. If the disaster film will just make the audience more miserable with their lives, why produce it?"

As Malou speaks, she knits her brow in concentration and determination, a clear sign that she tries to take in everything. Most of their blockbuster movies—"Madrasta," "Anak" and "Tanging Yaman"—were directed by women, so does she prefer stories about women to male-dominated themes?

SANTOS. Always on the lookout for good screenplays.

"Well, *oo nga, ano! Mas magagaling talaga kaming mga babae.* We have a female-dominated market for our films. Who can communicate to them better than female directors, right? But I also use male directors... Male directors *na may pusong babae*," she laughs before becoming serious.

"But it's not the theme but the stories that give direction to the movies. Chito Rono directed 'Bata, Bata... Paano Ka Ginawa?' and Jerry Sineneng did 'Soltera.' It's not the gender but the skills, expertise, gut feel and longstanding relationships.

Good work

"To be a woman in this business is no different from being a man. As in any human endeavor, ultimately good work wins out. The film industry requires spiritual, not muscular, endurance. The tedious, relentless kinks you encounter along the way need the meticulousness of a woman more than the broad strokes of a man, but these are non-critical differences.

"In the end, why do people watch movies? Is it for mindless entertainment? Or do they want to be nourished by a lesson? Those are all issues of the heart and mind, both for man and woman," she reveals.

Malou is always on the lookout for good screenplays. She describes a good script as a work that makes an emotional connection with the reader.

"I have to have an emotional hook *sa bida ng kuwento.* First 10 sequences *pa lang, alam ko na* if the script is worth producing. It's like reading a good book, you can't put it down.

"It is also second nature to me to visualize the direction, and the actors playing the roles. The script should always have a heart. Creative concepts are good. Great visuals and realistic sequences are good. The audience should enjoy and love the film. It's in the heart of the story," Malou shares.

Malou is the perfect picture of power and authority—but with a big heart. The perfect mold for a producer who touches lives.

Ishmael Bernal, way back when

By Nestor U. Torre

(Conclusion)

AFTER he made "Pagdating sa Dulo," Ishmael was lionized as one of the most promising movie directors to emerge in the '70s, along with Lino Brocka and Celso Ad Castillo.

Social excesses

All three young comers were deemed especially gifted, but in different ways. Brocka articulated the hopes and problems of the common man, Castillo fused the conflicting impulses of sex and religion, while Bernal satirized social excesses with a "European" sense of distance and cool objectivity.

But Bernal refused to be pigeonholed and also made a wide range of other film types. He even did a period action-adventure film, "El Vibora," starring Vic Vargas as a legendary hero of the Philippine revolution.

The film's script was written by our best buddy, Manny Pichel, so, on occasion, we would visit the movie's set in Laguna. Vic Vargas was in his prime and we would marvel at the ease with which he would tackle both action scenes and complex acting moments.

Discomfiture

Ishmael confessed that he felt out of his element directing an action film, but he was such a good filmmaker *and* actor that the people he worked with never suspected his discomfiture.

One indellible memory springs to mind: Ishmael was shooting a climactic scene in a forest which involved a group of partisans carrying the body of a slain revolutionary down a small river.

ALMA Moreno in Bernal's "Ligaw na Bulaklak."

All of a sudden, there was a commotion farther away, and shooting stopped. To the movie people's surprise, they saw some men bearing the body of a man who had died in an accident in the thicker part of the forest.

Painful irony

At first, the movie people didn't know what was going on. But, when they were told, they were awestruck at the painful irony of life mimicking art, of reality capturing an exact mirror image of what the fictive movie was attempting to depict.

Another batch of Ishmael memories springs from the time when he directed our script, "Inspiration," a movie that starred Vilma Santos and Jay Ilagan.

We learned from Ishmael as he discussed various ways of approaching a scene, and the inexo-

ISHMAEL/p.C6

TWO FOR THE SHOW

Aga Muhlach achieves his dream

By Mary Ann A. Bautista
and Ricky T. Gallardo

JACKMAN. Heart, angst and fire.

AGA Muhlach is a picture of bliss, happiness and contentment. He feels blessed because he's finally living a normal life with his wife, beauty queen and actress Charlene Gonzales.

"Everyone needs a partner. I'm glad that she finally came. I wanted someone who would do everything for me because I will do everything for her. Having my own family is one of my greatest desires. Believe it or not, I sleep as early as 10 p.m. now. When Charlene goes to bed, I also sleep. *Kaya maaga akong magising ngayon,*" Aga beams.

Aga adds that Charlene's presence makes his Ayala Alabang home very different. She gave it a more homey atmosphere.

"Before, I would always look for something to do outside the house, I'd hang out at a friend's house or hit the bars. But now, I prefer to stay at home. *Ang saya sa bahay ngayon kasi nandoon si* Charlene. We can spend the whole day together, we don't have to do anything special, *pero masaya na kami.*"

Aga waits for any movement inside Charlene's womb. He's also craving for food. He suspects that he's infanticipating, too!

"Charlene loves to cook and I eat whatever she prepares for me. I'm always craving. *Naging matakaw ako ngayon. Buti na lang*, I play golf, that's why I don't gain weight," Aga grins.

98 Degrees sets Manila on fire

They came, they sang, they conquered Manila again. Popular boyband 98 Degrees ignited the stage when they performed at the Araneta Coliseum to the delight of their local fans, which consisted mostly of shrieking female teenagers.

Jeff, Nick, Drew and Justin sang and swayed and sent many a heart throbbing as they proved that they could be at par with their rival groups, Backstreet Boys and N'Sync. The special concert was part of their Revelation World Tour. Despite the bad press the Philippines has been getting lately, the group decided to push through with their original plan to include Manila in the tour.

Said founding member Jeff, "We simply could not take Manila out of the itinerary. We owe it to our fans here to give them a truly unforgettable performance." Nick added, "Bad things occur all over the world, not only in your country. We hope that music can somehow serve as an equalizer for whatever negative events have happened here."

Aside from their signature hits like "I Do (Cherish You)," "Thank God I Found You" and "Invisible Man," the group also got deafening shouts when they performed the Latin-infected "Give Me Just One Night (Una Noche)" and "My Everything."

Hugh Jackman weaves his magic anew

He became an overnight sensation after he played Wolverine in the box-office hit "X-Men" and proved that he could be a bankable romantic lead in the mega-successful "Someone Like You." Now comes yet another chance to play a good role and Hugh Jackman passes his latest test with flying colors as he shares stellar billing with John Travolta and Halle Berry in "Swordfish."

We saw the movie recently and thought Jackman effortlessly stole most of the scenes from his senior colleagues as he convincingly gave heart, angst and fire to his computer-hacker character.

AGA/p.C6

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"I hope my Lola forgives me, but this *Adobo* recipe is so much better!"

Mrs. Nina Yap
Pre-school Teacher, Mother

" I've always used my Lola's *Adobo* recipe which is very good. But then, I stumbled upon a kitchen gold mine -- *Adobo* with **Lea and Perrins Worcestershire Sauce!** *Ang sarap!* Just a tablespoon and you have the flavor and zest that make your *Adobo* **the best tasting -- ever!** And now, my family will never have *Adobo* in any other way.

Come to think of it, it's still my Lola's recipe -- with a delightful twist: **Lea and Perrins Worcestershire Sauce.** I'm sure she'll be so proud of me!"

Chicken Pork Adobo *a la Lea and Perrins*

Ingredients:

1/2 kilo pork liempo, cut into large cubes
1/2 kilo fresh chicken, cut up in pieces
2 cloves macerated garlic
1 teaspoon whole peppercorns
2-3 pieces bay leaves
1/2 cup native vinegar
1 cup soup stock or water
2 tbsps. soy sauce
1 tbsp. ***Lea and Perrins Worcestershire Sauce***

Procedure:

Marinate chicken and pork in a mixture of soy sauce, garlic, peppercorns, bay leaves, vinegar and Lea and Perrins Worcestershire Sauce. Do not stir and let stand for 10 minutes.

Put the whole marinated mixture in a saucepan over medium heat and cook without stirring. Let it boil first then stir. Simmer until chicken is done and some sauce had evaporated.

Take out the chicken and continue simmering. Add soup stock until pork is tender to the touch and sauce is beginning to thicken.

Put back the chicken and finish cooking over low heat until pork begins to shed some fat and the chicken becomes brown.

Remove from fire, take out the bay leaves and serve hot.

Makes 4-5 servings.

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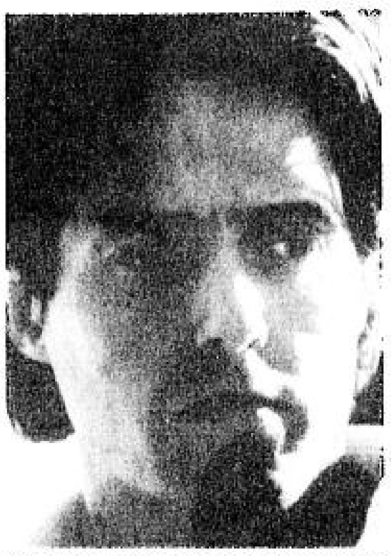
Hugh Grant admits he's no Mr. Nice Guy

YOU think you know Hugh Grant. He's that sweet, shy, good in "Four Weddings . . ." and "Notting Hill," Liz Hurley's squeeze for 14 years. Nice chap. Admittedly, his Divine Brown escapade didn't quite fit his image, but we still held on to the belief that he was essentially that bashful charmer from his romantic-comedy hits.



GRANT. Forgot to celebrate his 40th birthday with a big bash.

Roguish edge

Until now. Playing "Bridget Jones's Diary's" seductive cad Daniel Cleaver—the publishing boss who wines, dines and two-times our Bridget—he brings a roguish edge to his familiar big-screen comic persona. Shockingly, say his pals, this is the real Hugh Grant! That's hard to believe as he settles down for a chat in LA's Four Season Hotel, sporting the new, spiky haircut he got for his next film. He is, as ever, the essence of self-deprecating wit: could a man this charming, this friendly, really be that naughty? Q & A:

Are you used to the new haircut?

I'm getting there. I can't decide if it's what I intended, which is hip, or whether it's not what I intended, which is female tennis player. It's for this Nick Hornby film, "About A Boy." I start in about three weeks and I'm quite panicked about it.

Can you empathize with Bridget's body-image obsession?

Definitely. I became quite girlie about a year and a half ago. I was taken to a health farm in Thailand and I couldn't have hated it more. They did that humiliating thing of measuring me for fat with callipers and came back saying I was moderately obese; I became quite interested in weight after that.

Trainer

I borrowed [producer] Eric Fellner's trainer. She takes me to the park and throws sticks for me. Then we go back home and she sort of wrestles me on the floor for an hour.

You were never overweight though, were you?

Well, I was getting a little middle-aged. There was a horrible moment about a year and a half ago. I'd finished shaving and I looked up into the mirror. I realized I was getting old!

Did you have a big party for your 40th birthday?

I forgot to organize it until it was too late. So I ended up going out with about five or six other angry 40-year-olds and we sat in a pub rather gloomily and then went home.

Can you relate to girls like Bridget?

Definitely, yes. I know lots of Notting Hill girls who are sort of drowned in Chadonnay and security and I'm very fond of them. It's all part of my life.

What's the biggest misconception about you?

Exasperated

That I'm this nice guy from "Four Weddings And A Funeral" and "Notting Hill." It's always exasperated me and very much amused Richard Curtis and all the people who know me.

Is true love really attainable?

I think so. It's a rare bird but I've seen it. Certainly, sustained love at that level is the harder thing, but I have seen it.

Is it hard to date "civilians," as your ex-girl friend would put it?

I quite like it, actually. I never think of Elizabeth as being in show business because I knew her for so long before that. I'm not crazy about going out with actresses—they're too mad, too neurotic.

What's the point of "Bridget Jones's Dairy?"

I think the point is probably something close to Mark Darcy's line to Bridget: "I like you just the way you are." Or was that Lionel Richie? That, if your life's a bit crappy or your love life is a catalogue of embarrassments and failures, it's sort of all right so long as you're yourself, having a nice time and having a laugh.

But your fashion sense has definitely improved since then. Do designers approach you to wear their clothes?

They approach me *not* to wear their clothes!

Did you used to get Liz to approve your outfit before going out?

Yes, but I think most boys tend to refer to their girlfriends for fashion advice. I have tried to sharpen up in the last few years. I realized that I was a bit dowdy.

Five suits

One of the clever things I did on "Bridget Jones" was to persuade the costume designer, Richard James, to make me five suits which I then nicked from the film. The result was that they had no money at all for the other characters. That's why Colin Firth is in a rather cheap list.

Does your family like the fact that you're famous?

Well, I'm still Hughie to them.

Aga Muhlach . . .

(From page C5)

The good thing about Jackman is that his intensity is subtle yet sweeping, and his presence is captivating whether he delivers a long line or simply looks at you. The moment his character comes out, you forget that he's the Jackman you've been fantasizing about or the hunk you wished you could be like.

If "Pearl Harbor's" Ben Affleck and company literally bombed Judy Ann and Wowie, and "Tomb Raider" Angelina Jolie upstaged "Mila," we wouldn't be surprised if people blame Hugh Jackman if Aga and Regine can't seem to keep their promise anymore!

Why some people don't like boy bands

By Leia Torre

HEARING songs of boy bands elicit a variety of reactions from different people, ranging from ecstatic bliss to unspeakable agony. Two factions have evolved from these reactions.

One faction revels in adoring these bands with screaming, fainting fits and accompanying underwear-waving, while the other calls the members of these bands every epithet they can think of, questioning their sexuality and avoiding their every song and music video.

Here are some people who are not exactly lining up to buy tickets for the next concert of Boy Band X in Timbuktu, and what they have to say about these bands:

"I don't really like boy bands because quite a lot of their members do not exactly know how to sing. What they know is how to project themselves in front of a camera or audience. I think that what they are relying upon to retain their popularity is their looks, not their musicality. The subject matter of their songs does not vary, and their tunes seem to follow the same pattern.

"They also do not apply any dynamics to their singing, so their songs are boring to listen to. It's like they don't have their own identity; that the reason they are popular is because they package themselves as the epitome of teenage girls' dream guys.—*Maria Florin, 23*

'Macho-chistic'

"What I've noticed about boy bands is that they have 'macho-chistic' tendencies—I like to think about them as ROTC officers in the context of the music industry. They like personifying their 'macho-chistic' ideas.

"They also love to preen and then offer themselves up for the adoration of their admirers, adding Narcissism to their many faults. Their songs are very predictable: about losing girlfriends, falling for unavailable girls, having girls fall for them, etc. These songs are not very original in the ideas they express—it's like they use different sets of words to talk about the same thing.

"Likewise, their music videos are all about the members trying to look cute while they stand around singing their nonsense songs. There is little creativity involved in the making of these videos, which are mostly comprised of the members of the group extending their hands towards the camera while trying to appear soulful and romantic."—*Uriel Erasquin, 22*

Unappealing

"I've always thought that their songs are the type you hear those middle-aged, beer-drinking men sing in videoke establishments. The members rely on whatever looks they have in order to hold an audience. They do not know how to sing.

"Also, their music videos are unappealing. They completely robbed me of my penchant for watching music videos, because there was a time when they were the ones I would see on screen each time I switched to the music video channel.

"But what I dislike most about these bands is that they use the media to propagate sensational gossip about themselves in order to remain popular."—*Anne Valencia, 17*

Too many bands

"There are too many boy bands around. This would have been okay if they each had their own specialty—something to differentiate them from each other.

"Unfortunately, they tend to sing the same type of songs in the same way, making it very hard for the poor listener to distinguish which band is singing which song. Their music videos do not appeal to me as they resemble each other and watching variations of the same thing over and over tends to turn me off very quickly.

"The contents of their songs are very similar to each other, and the melodies and beats sound alike after a while. I find them vastly overrated, and it has not escaped my notice that most of their admirers are teenage girls."—*John Dizon, 23 (To be concluded)*

Ishmael Bernal . . .

(From page C4)

rable way that a story must progress, every scene adding and building up to the film's conclusion.

Truth and vitality

We saw how creatively he motivated his young stars, encouraging them to go beyond their standard performances, so that their portrayals flared with truth and vitality.

As a friend, Ishmael was blithely, breezily entertaining, dazzling us with a flurry of witty remarks and sharp put-downs. As a co-worker, he was still witty, but his motive was no longer to entertain, but to use his sharp mind—and tongue—to cut away all extraneous elements, to reveal the lean, mean motion picture that was at the heart and core of the script he was dissecting (or eviscerating).

Never subjective

But we didn't mind his dissection one bit, and in fact even thanked him for it, because he was never subjective, never mean-spirited in his criticism. What a compleat film professional he was.

Later, Ishmael moved on to tougher film challenges like "Nunal sa Tubig" and "Manila By Night (City After Dark)," and his deft combination of creativity and objectivity would serve him well even in those daunting productions.

We supported his efforts, praising his movies even when others found them too elegant or recondite to engage the viewing masses.

Belated connection

In time, however, even the "ordinary" viewer found a belated connection with Bernal's movies, some of which became hits, thus prompting mainstream and even "commercial" producers to secure his services.

The interesting thing was, Bernal was able to work with them while holding on to his stringent vision of what his films should be about.

The movie that best exemplifies his combination of depth *and* accessibility is "Ligaw na Bulaklak." The film became a hit due to Alma Moreno's sexy scenes in it, but it also featured the wonderfully deep and complex performance of Vic Silayan as her sad, mad deflowerer.

Only Ishmael Bernal could have combined both art and commerce in such a valid, vivid and integral way. When comes such another? We have a long wait ahead of us, we fear.

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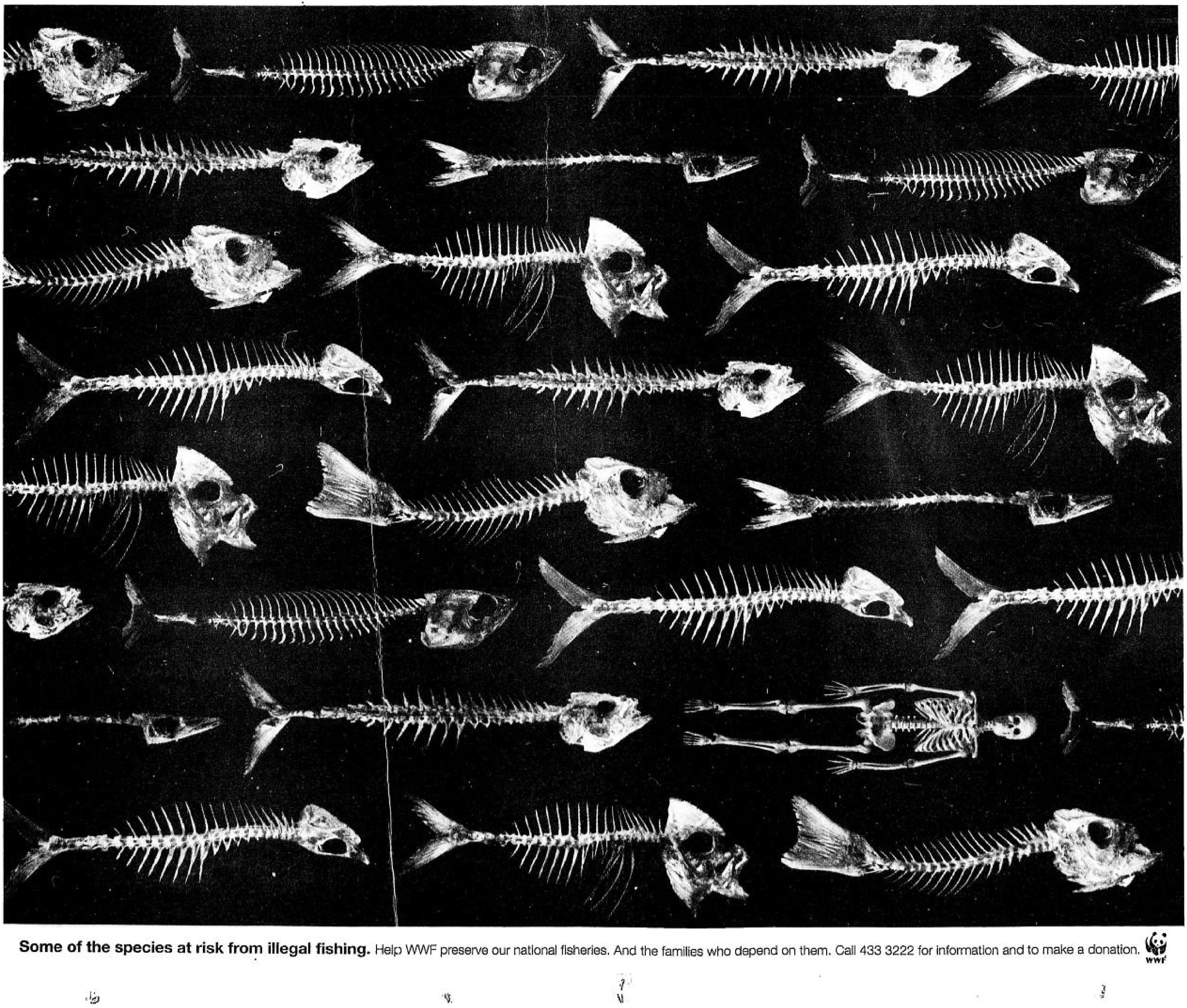

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WWF

Carmi Martin enjoys acting in soap operas

BY VERON DIONISIO

"SOAP opera is the "in" thing today," declares Carmi Martin, smiling. "Well, aside of course, from texting," The former other half of the variety show duo of "Dick and Carmi" is seemingly having a great time playing a scheming villain in her newest soap on GMA, "Ikaw Lang Ang Mamahalin."

She continues: "I really like working in a soap. It seems that everybody is into it. Almost every household follows a soap opera. It seems their lives wouldn't be complete without following a certain character on a certain show."

"Ikaw Lang..." is Carmi's third soap. Her first was "Ikaw Lang," on GMA a few years ago, followed by "Labs Ko Si Babes" on ABS-CBN aired last year.

Pervasive influence

The pervasive influence of soap operas on the socio-cultural aspects of everyday life has been cause for much concern and debate among educators, social scientists and parents as well. The genre's tendency to depict stereotypes of men, women and children could engender misconceptions and monolithic views.

Isn't Carmi apprehensive of the power of her portrayals and their impact to viewers, children, in particular? "Honestly, I consider this as a job," replies Carmi. "I know that there would always be a risk in playing villain roles on TV. Certainly, there could be negative effects on children. We could only hope that in showing the bad side of a character, we can also highlight the good side of the others."

Carmi's current anti-heroine role, focuses on making the life of the main lead (played by Angelica dela Cruz) miserable. She plots every possible mishap and misfortune in Angelica's life. She uses her money and influence in exacting loyalty from people she can manipulate to destroy Angelica's future.

Away from the cameras, Carmi is involved with an NGO named Band of Mercy, a foundation that eases the problems of street children and aims to advance women issues. Carmi lends her celebrity status to the areas of information, education and advocacy.

"This way, I fulfill my civic duties and social responsibilities, which is difficult to do in my line of work,"

Proponents

Carmi is extra-busy these days. She has to juggle her time for tapings, school, and meeting with proponents of the NGO. She's taking a certificate course in interior design at the Philippine School of Interior Design in Makati.

Being an ABS-CBN talent before, Carmi's transfer to GMA was unexpected. However, she clarifies that there was never any disagreement between her and ABS-CBN. "It was mutually beneficial to us," she stresses.

Because the network had no assignments for her in recent months, she asked the management's permission to do "Ikaw Lang..." for GMA, and it was readily given.

Carmi has found peace of mind. She's more relaxed, comfortable, happier, and very much at ease with herself and the people around her. However, she has one wish left: she hopes to be the next "Nanny" or "Lucy" in a sitcom. "I do miss doing comedy," she says, her eyes twinkling.

Basketball is entertainment

BY JOCELYN VALLE

WHEN Canadian-American physical education teacher James Naismith introduced basketball in early December 1891 at the School for Christian Workers (now Springfield College) in Springfield, Massachusetts, he probably didn't think it would become one of the most popular and profitable sports of all time.

New game

Naismith was instructed by the PE department's chair, Luther Gulick, to, as the Encarta Encyclopedia reports, "invent a new game to entertain the school's athletes during the winter school."

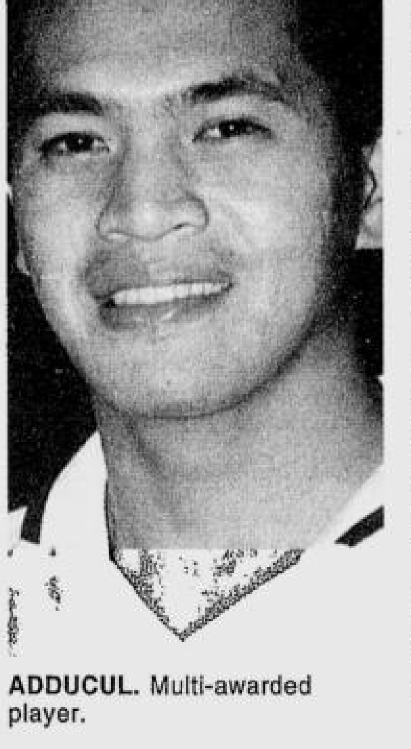
Basketball has never been as entertaining to both players and fans as it is today. And thanks to the wonders of television, the games have become more exciting and comprehensible.

Missed a three pointer that just concluded a tight contest? Wait a sec and the playback will show you what happened. The slow-mo, with the commentator's analysis, will later explain to the viewer how the play transpired, step-by-step.

Since moving from a UHF channel (Studio 23) to free TV (Channel 4), the country's semi-professional league, the Metropolitan Basketball Association (MBA) has been attracting more viewers, especially the ones from the provinces.

Competition

But the affiliate of ABS-CBN remains determined to give the frontrunner, Philippine Basketball Association (PBA), stiff competition.



ADDUCUL. Multi-awarded player.

The tactic: Maximize the games' entertainment value. Is this the ABS-CBNization of basketball?

MBA's Business Development manager, Ramon Tuason, would rather point out that basketball *is* entertainment. "As you see on TV," he says, "*sa pag*-pan *ng* camera, *iba ang* appreciation *ng* audience. It's not just a basketball game. It's a show.

"And we're taking it a step further," he continues. "When you watch the games, *ayaw namin na parang nanonood ka ng sine na* very passive. *Dito, kasama ka sa* game. *Kapag may takbuhan, parang gusto mo ring tumakbo. Kapag nagtatalunan, gusto mo ring tumalon.* That for us is entertainment."

To make the games more acceptable and appealing to both fans and non-fans of basketball, Tuason patterns his marketing strategy to the selling of a consumer brand. "We're treating MBA as a product," he explains.

Thus, new rules have been implemented since MBA's inception in 1997: the championship season, the 23-second shot clock, the free three, the possession arrow, the graduated penalty situation, the no-charge zone and the latest, the Blitz 3. All these aim for faster and more motivating games.

Although the MBA is not wholly regional anymore (since it needs companies to support the clubs, particularly the players' salaries), it continues to bring the games to the provinces.

Intensity

"*Ibang-iba ang* crowd *doon*," observes Tuason. "They are more active because they feel that the team belongs to them and they belong to the team. *Ang* intensity *at* passion *nila, malakas*."

The MBA may have yet to produce superstar cagers like the National Basketball Association's Michael Jordan and the PBA's Alvin Patrimonio, but most of its players have become popular.

Tuason cites multi-awarded Romel Adducul, who plays forward-center for the LBC Batangas Blades, as Mr. MBA. Movie fans know him as well as the guy sexy star Assunta de Rossi used to date.

American Alex Compton, LBC Batangas Blades' off guard, used to co-host Channel 2's "Sports Unlimited" and now appears in print ads.

Some players, like Socsargen Marlin's Paul Alvarez, have come from either the PBA or the amateur league.

New faces

There are lots of new faces to watch out for, especially for the female populace, which, Tuason reveals, comprises more than 50 percent of the audience. For example, the Hawaii-born Kalani Ferreria, who's 6'2 ½" and single. The guard-forward of Andok's San Juan Knights came to the country in 1999, inspired by the MBA games that are aired abroad on The Filipino Channel.

Meanwhile, Bong Salvador Jr. belongs to the Salvador show-biz clan but he'd rather make his mark as a ballplayer, asserting his power in the guard-forward position for the Socsargen Marlins.

The players we've talked to agree that basketball is, indeed, entertainment. Romel hopes that the MBA gets more support from the press. To achieve this, he admits to making himself more media-friendly. "At the same time *nakatulong ito sa pag*-develop *ng* confidence *ko*," he grins.

Bet Naismith never thought that basketball could do this!

Julia Roberts, Sean Penn and Ang Lee top Time's list of best entertainers

NEW YORK—What do a toothy Julia Roberts, a sullen Sean Penn and a soulful Lucinda Williams all have in common? They rank as the people who represent, according to Time Magazine, the "highest quality" entertainers.

In the issue of the US newsweekly out Monday, Julia Roberts has been rated the best movie star; Sean Penn dubbed the best actor; and Lucinda Williams deemed the best songwriter.

Surprise hit

Taiwan-born Ang Lee, whose "Crouching Tiger, Hidden Dragon," was a surprise hit in 2000 and took home a host of awards including the Academy Award for best foreign film, was voted best director.

The list also includes Gucci's Tom Ford (best fashion designer), Philip Roth (best novelist), and Martin Puryear (best artist) in the first of a five-part series that hopes to "create the definitive list of people who stand for the best in America today," said a statement released by the magazine.

Excellence

"It's about excellence; how we define it today, how a person achieves it, and how it changes our society," Time's deputy managing editor Steve Koepp said of the series.

Philadelphia-bred rappers The Roots (best rappers), all-girl punk band Sleater-Kinney (best rock band) and Pulitzer Prize winner August Wilson (best playwright), whose "King Hedley II" is currently in production on Broadway, are also on the list. *AFP*

ROBERTS. Best movie star.

Bob Dylan at 60

BY DAX A. COBARRUBIAS

(Conclusion)

DYLAN again tried to break away from this new image. During his London tour, he met with the Beatles. Though he was considered the Anti-Beatle, he admired the Fab Four. Breaking the ice by rolling and giving each member of the band a joint, they would highly influence each other and further change music history.

Serious lyrics

The Beatles would turn to serious lyrics and talk about loneliness and mortality ("Eleanor Rigby," "In my Life") on their succeeding albums. They would even stop performing live.

When creating the cover art to their hugely successful and influential "Sgt. Pepper" album, they decided to put their heroes on its cover. All four members unanimously agreed that Bob Dylan be there.

Upon his return from London, Dylan released an album that would shock the music world. Putting his acoustic guitar aside, he played electric. Now headlining the 1965 Newport festival, where he was discovered two years ago, he walked to the stage plugged in, accompanied by the group The Band. He played his songs electrified for the first time. Dylan was booed for his entire set. "He sold out to rock and roll," the headlines said.

"How does it feel/Living without a home/A complete unknown/Like a Rolling Stone"—**"Like a Rolling Stone"—1965**

New genre

Dylan's actions inadvertently created a new genre of music: folk rock. While the purists would forgive him years later, he would win the hearts of millions.

His 1965 No. 2 hit "Like a Rolling Stone" broke barriers. It was the longest song (clocking in at 6 1/2 minutes) to reach the Top 10—only "Hey Jude" by the Beatles would top this feat.

From folk singer, to Rock Star, to pop musician, whatever Dylan would do to challenge his audience, the public would shift their tastes for him. In 1966, he would release the first double album "Blonde on Blonde," which would be his first record to top the album charts. But he didn't stop there, after a motorcycle accident the same year: he went into seclusion and recorded songs with Robbie Robertson and the Band in his house. Called the "Basement Tapes," Dylan would not publicly release this album, instead he created a new form of musical distribution—bootlegging. A precursor to Napster and the pirate CD's of today, the Basement Tapes were released only to fans, who would then make multiple copies of the songs. Dylan was giving his music for free! Aside from the Basement Tapes, he would also bootleg his concerts.

Ten years after it was recorded, Dylan would authorize the sale of the Basement Tapes to Columbia and in 1998, he finally authorized his label to legally produce "Bob Dylan Live 1966 Royal Albert Hall," dubbed by critics as the "best Bob Dylan concert ever recorded not available for sale."

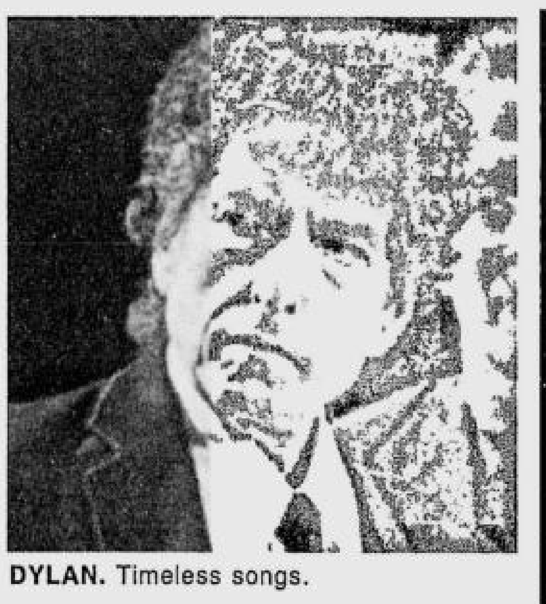
Dylan fans who followed the bootlegging practice and became successful musical artists themselves include The Grateful Dead, Phish, Liz Phair and Dave Matthews.

World tour

Dylan is winning more fans from the younger generation. He won the Academy Award for Best Song, for "Things Have Changed," from the movie "Wonder Boys" and started on a sold-out world tour this year.

What makes Dylan still popular and influential is the fact that his songs are timeless. They are as relevant today as they were 40 years ago. Unlike most of the songs in the '60s, his psalms do not sound dated.

Dylan has inspired artists from all genres: Johnny Cash, REM, Green Day, U2, Wyclef Jean and the young band Coldplay are only some of the many successful artists influenced not just by his music, but for what he stood for.



DYLAN. Timeless songs.

Music fans unfamiliar with Dylan might be initially turned off by his simple playing and off-key singing. I myself needed some time to get used to his music because it is really an acquired taste. But if you are truly interested in knowing Dylan, you can start by checking out his songs made popular by other artists. The best covers are:

1. Jimi Hendrix: "All Along the Watchtower"
2. The Byrds: "Mr. Tambourine Man"
3. Guns n' Roses: "Knocking on Heaven's Door
4. Peter, Paul and Mary: "Blowin' in the Wind"

If you like any of these songs, and are ready to experience "Dylanism," the next step is to purchase the 2000 release: "The Essential Bob Dylan." It is a two disc-set that contains almost all his most notable singles.

42 albums

Once you get hooked and endlessly repeat it on your CD player, you can start collecting his catalog, which is a staggering 42 albums! If you can afford it, purchase all of it (which would roughly amount to at least P21,000.00); otherwise, here are some suggestions to start your Bob Dylan collection.

"The Times They are A-Changin'" (1963): Contains the most moving protest songs ever written. One can't imagine that these songs were made almost 40 years ago. Given the shaky state of our republic these days, this disc is timely.

"Another Side of Bob Dylan" (1964): Reveals his romantic and humorous side—his best disc to listen to if you are in a less-serious mood.

"Bring it All Home" (1965): Dylan goes electric and creates folk rock.

"Blonde on Blonde" (1966): The first double album and one of his most controversial works. Contains the misunderstood songs "Rainy Day Women #12 & 35" (thought to be encouraging drug use) and "Just like a Woman" (thought to be misogynistic).

"Blood on Tracks" (1975): The most personal and painful album he has written. It documents the breakup with his wife—the mother of the Wallflowers' Jakob Dylan.

Synopsis: Dylan's influence in music in 30 seconds or less.

1. Introduces the world to the protest song.
2. Made folk music a popular genre of music.
3. Made people listen to songs because of the lyrics not the melody.
4. Created folk rock.
5. Introduced bootlegging and giving out free music for fans.
6. Influenced the Beatles to write serious music.
7. Released the first double album.
8. Released the longest single to reach the top 10!

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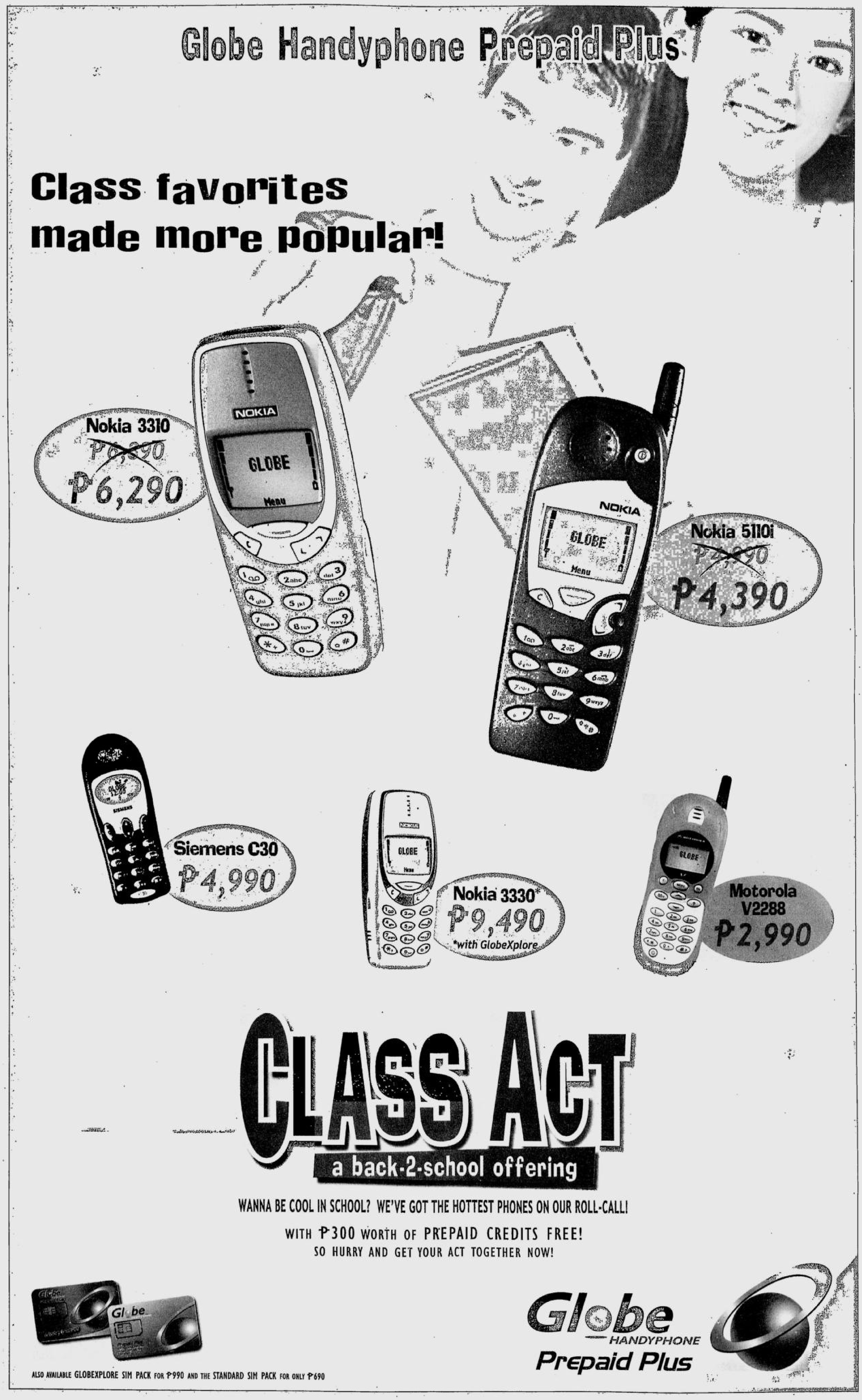

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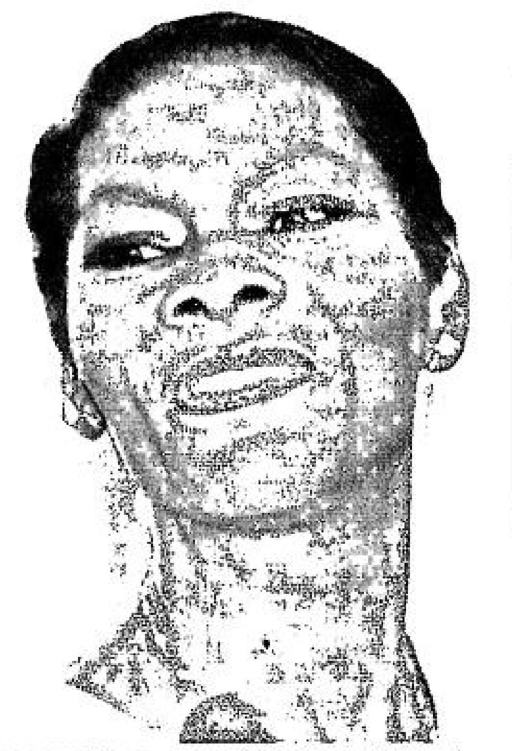
Nelson, Parton, Warwick honored by songwriters' Hall of Fame



WARWICK. Received her award from her cousin, Whitney Houston.

By Nekesa Mumbi Moody

NEW YORK—The Songwriters' Hall of Fame recognizes that songwriters need singers.

So Dionne Warwick is going into the hall even though she didn't write a word of her biggest hits, including "Do You Know the Way to San Jose?" and "Walk On By."

Ability

Warwick was honored, along with singer-songwriter Eric Clapton, Billy Joel, Willie Nelson, Dolly Parton and others, for her ability to turn other people's tunes into classics.

"She's sort of had a whole idea about singing that's very original and no one's ever tried to copy it because I guess it's so unusual, and perfect for those songs," said Elvis Costello, who sang Warwick's hit "Don't Make Me Over" at the 32nd annual ceremony in New York.

The inductees included Clapton, Parton and Nelson; songwriter Diane Warren, who's written a string of No. 1 tunes, and actor and Oscar-winning composer Paul Williams, who co-wrote songs such as "Evergreen" with Barbra Streisand and penned the Carpenters hit "We've Only Just Begun."

Amazing

"It's amazing, it's such an honor. It feels amazing for your peers to induct you, and vote you in," said Warren, a Grammy winner and Oscar nominee who wrote Faith Hill's latest hit, "There You'll Be."

Besides receiving the hall of fame honor, Nelson sang one of Williams's other tunes, "Rainbow Connection"—which is also the title track of Nelson's new album. Before the ceremony, Nelson said even though singing made him famous, songwriting is the greater of his talents.

"I'd have to say I was a better songwriter than a singer," he said. "There are some great singers out there that we know about."

Joel, already an inductee, was awarded the Johnny Mercer Award, given to an inductee who has a vast catalog of songs.

"This is a special award for me because it means that my music goes beyond me. It goes to his generation," he said as he stood next to crooner Marc Anthony, who sang Joel's song "An Innocent Man" at the ceremony. "That means a lot to me that his generation is interested in singing my music."

Receiving a lifetime achievement award were singer Gloria Estefan and her producer husband, Emilio Estefan.

"As a songwriter, this award means a lot to me, because a lot of people don't even know we write the songs," Estefan said.

Emotional

An emotional Warwick received the Hitmakers award, given specially to singers, from a relative—Whitney Houston.

Houston, who is Warwick's cousin, said "when Dionne sings a song, she owns it. She is a songwriter's dream."

"I am proud to be her fellow artist, but even prouder to be her kin," Houston said.

The ceremony reunited Warwick with composer Hal Davis, the hall's chair. Davis, along with Burt Bacharach, wrote many of Warwick's most popular tunes.

"We all kind of started together, and it just blossomed into what it is today, a very mature and very strong friendship," Warwick said before the ceremony. "That was the joy of working with both of those men."

Clapton, who has been on tour recently, was not on hand to receive his award. *AP*

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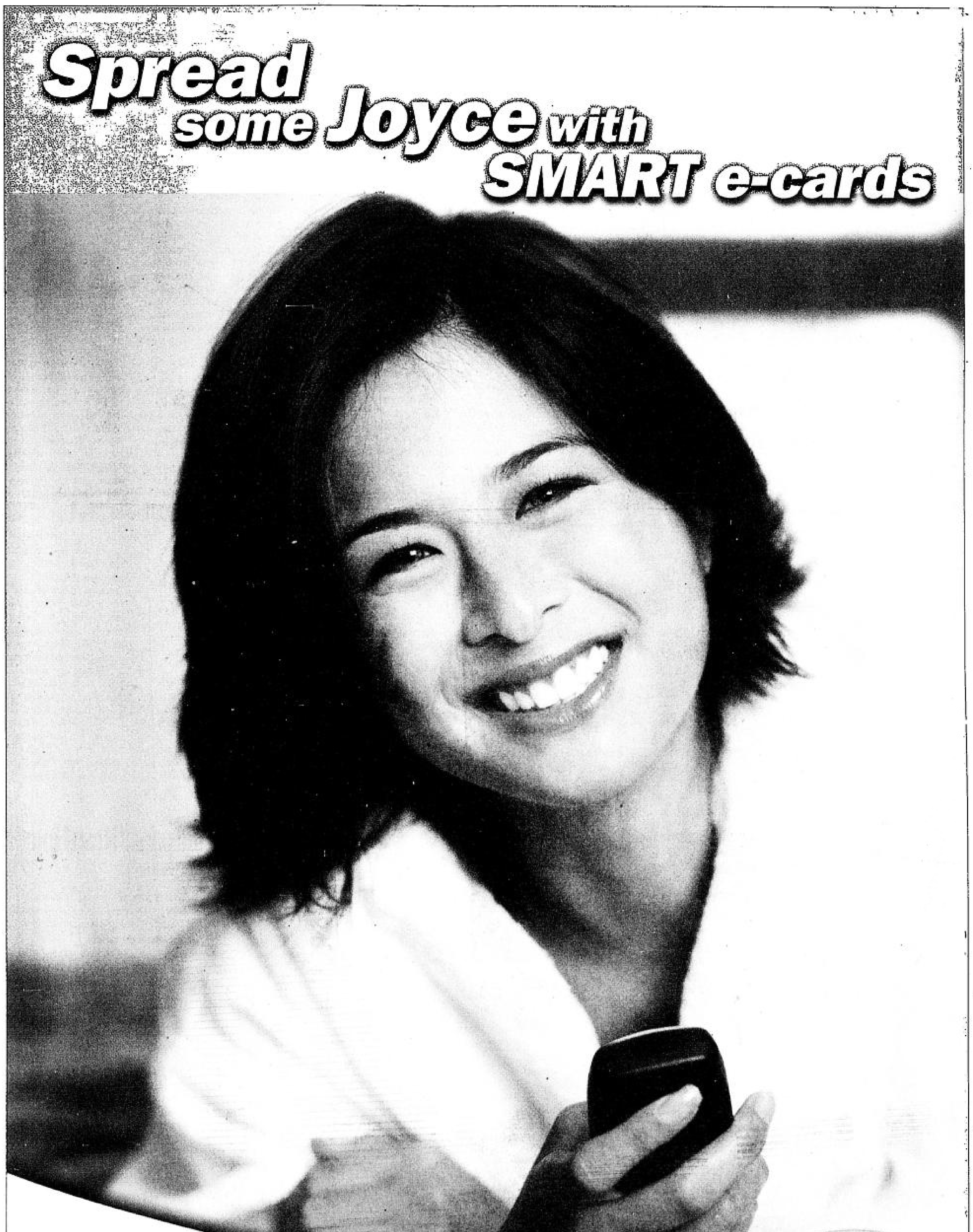
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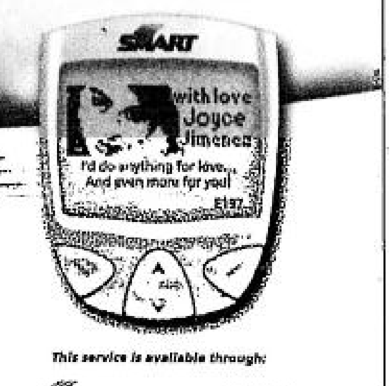

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Aga-Regine chemistry still alive in 'Pangako'

By Edmund L. Sicam

ONE of the photographs we got in our press kit for "Pangako, Ikaw Lamang," the Aga Muhlach-Regine Velasquez starrer, is a close-up of Aga framed by flowers. It's seldom that we see male stars posing with flowers so we asked Aga during the presscon, "Aren't you worried people will get the wrong idea?" The actor just laughed, secure about his sexuality, and commented that he had already had a pictorial once with flowers in the background.

Flower shop

The flower motif was actually inspired by the character Regine plays in the movie. She plays the owner of a flower shop in the love story which will test whether the "*kilig*" factor is still very strong in the Aga-Regine team-up, despite the actor's new status as a married man.

We asked Regine, "When you first teamed up with Aga in 'Dahil May Isang Ikaw,' you were both single. Now that Aga is married, *hindi ka ba naiinggit*?"

Regine said she would like very much to get married someday but she hasn't found the right man. "*Ayoko yung nape*-pressure ako. I don't want to settle for just anybody. My time will come."

The press would not let go of the subject matter and asked the singer if someone was courting her. Regine's answer was in the negative but she wondered aloud if it's considered courting if someone visits her at home and says nothing. She stressed that her suitors should tell her exactly how they feel towards her. She's not the type to "make *pakiramdam*" and guess whether someone likes her or not.

Text messages

Someone asked if she receives text messages from guys. Regine replied that she didn't own a cell phone ("*Hindi ko alam na* 2001 *na*.") She has this thing about modern gadgets and is afraid she wouldn't know how to handle cellphones.

A writer commented that maybe guys are intimidated by her celebrity and strong personality. Regine admitted that this may be the case but she doesn't want to change. She did say that the special man in his life "must respect me as a human being and accept me for what I am." Later, she added that he should be "someone like my father," someone older than she is, who will take care of her.

How did her dad, Mang Gerry, court her mom? Regine said he sang to her. "*Kaya nga ang* first boyfriend ko singer," she said mischievously.

Isn't she worried that she will become an old maid? She brushed that aside, saying, that women are more career-oriented now, they have more choices in life, so they're getting married at a much older age. She is confident that someday, someone will enter her life and he will be the right man for her.

AGA AND REGINE. Playing up the *kilig* factor.

No headaches

Going back to the Aga-Regine movie, Regine said she got even closer to Aga when they made the movie. "He didn't give me *sakit ng ulo* like in the first movie where he was always late. *Nandoon pa rin ang* chemistry *naming dalawa*." She recalls that they had lots of kissing scenes then. ("Half of the movie, we were kissing. *Walang* inhibition."). In their current movie, the kisses are fewer and more tender.

After their first movie, Viva wanted a follow-up project right away but their schedules wouldn't gibe. Finally, Viva was able to get them together and come up with a new project directed again by Joyce Bernal, which deals with two persons who are reluctant to get involved with each other because one has a fiancee while the other is unsure of the other person's feelings.

The movie uses Regine's songs to convey the mood at certain points of the story. She has a duet with Robert Arevalo, "Someone to Watch Over Me," a tender song that proves Regine can also handle simple songs, and that she doesn't have to belt all the time.

Much of the movie plays up the *kilig* factor between Regine and Aga, something that Viva feels is still there even if Aga is already married and expecting twins. Hopefully, movie fans will feel the same way.

'Mindanao' goes into its final shooting phase

By Nestor U. Torre

GOOD news: Marilou Diaz-Abaya's film on the Mindanao conflict has completed shooting 75 percent of its scenes on its main set in the hills of Tanay, Rizal.

Upbeat

The last time we visited the movie's location, it was raining but the cast and crew were feeling upbeat about the shots they were getting.

More than ever, they sensed that they were making an important movie since "Mindanao" (working title) is the first film that deals directly and in depth with the long-festering conflict in the Philippines' second largest island.

That day, the shooting was itself being shot (on still camera) by a Japanese news team, because Marilou had just won the prestigious Fukuoka Peace and Culture Prize, which will officially be conferred on her this September.

Andy Bais, Jeanne Lim and Ray Manalo were impressed with the combination of confidence and humility with which Marilou directed the production.

Confidence, because she had spent over a year researching the movie's material in Mindanao, and humility because she did not claim sole artistic "ownership" of the production, and in fact gave much of the credit for its truth and integrity to the many war refugees she had interviewed in the war-torn areas of Mindanao.

The film is a co-production of Star Cinema and the Mindanao-based Bahag-Hari Productions, financed by Margie Moran Floirendo and other peace advocates.

We asked the director when the film would be shown to the public, and she figured that it would be submitted as a possible official entry to this year's Metro Manila Film Festival.

Awards

If this happens, this would be the third film by Marilou to be screened at the Metro filmfest, after "Jose Rizal" and "Muro-Ami"—and it should be greeted with the same enthusiastic reception that was enjoyed by the first two films, which not only won awards but set records at the box office.

An interesting sidelight on the movie's set the day we visited it was provided by Angela, lead actor Cesar Montano's daughter, who was cast as a female Muslim warrior in the production.

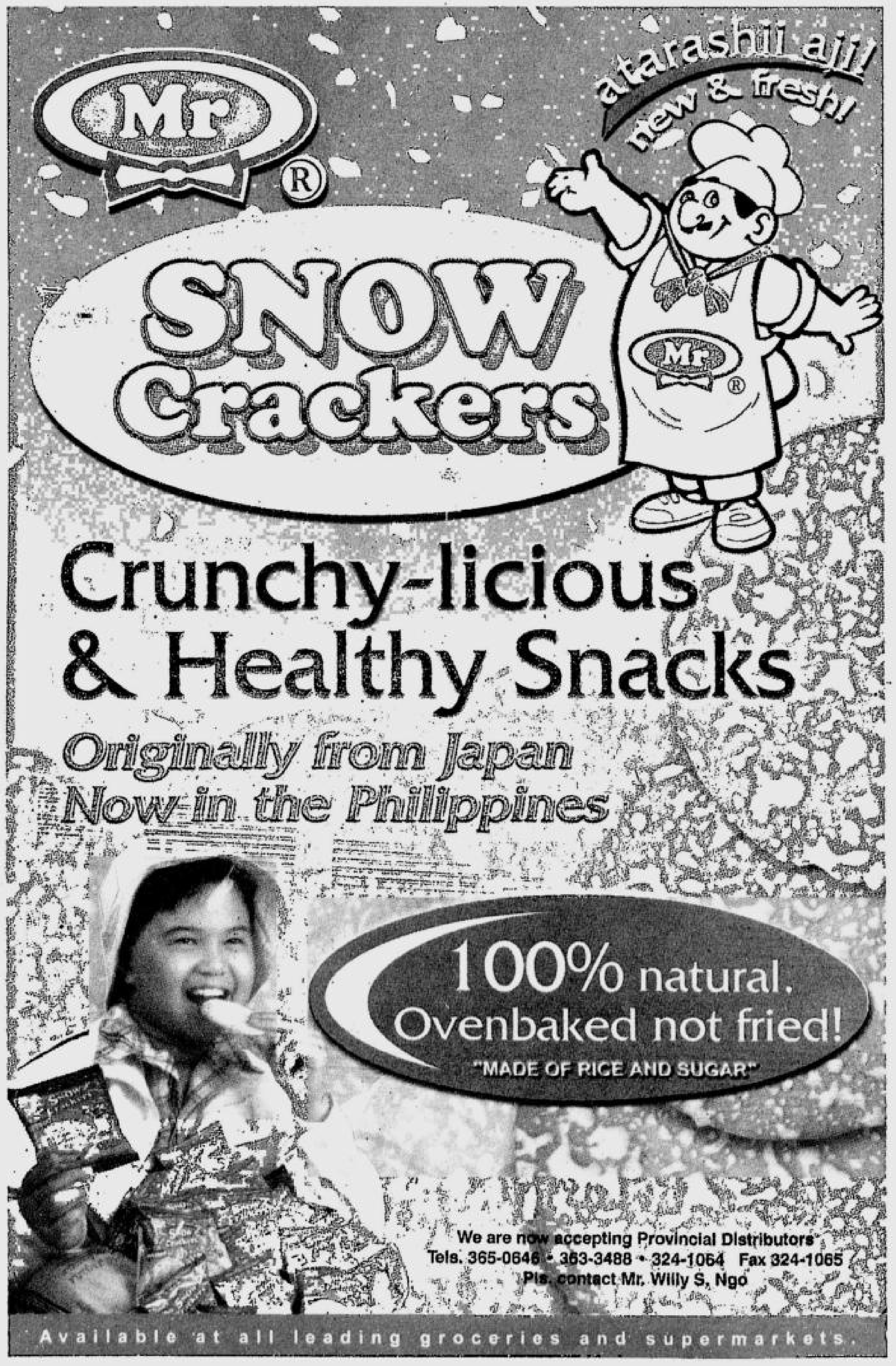
We learned that the comely girl liked acting in school but had stayed clear of appearing in films until this production. Andy noted that she looked a bit like Ina Raymundo, and exuded a striking star quality, to boot.

Intense scene

One of the sequences being shot that day involved ace actor Ronnie Lazaro, who played a respected Muslim leader who was about to meet his death. It was a very intense scene that Ronnie played with a striking combination of passion and calmness, and it should be one of the dramatic highlights of the film.

After completing the scenes on its main set in Tanay, the production will move to other locations. It is expected that shooting will be wrapped up this month, after which the film will go into its post-production phase, partly in Australia.

Thus far, work on the film is proceeding well, and hopes are high that it will emerge as one of the most outstanding and significant movies of the year. Its makers trust that it will open viewers' eyes to the real causes of the conflict in Mindanao, the harrowing plight of the tens of thousands of refugees there, and how peace can finally come to the country's land of pain and promise.



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Jericho Rosales is more than just the typical boy next door

By Mary Ann A. Bautista

JERICHO Rosales looks like the typical boy-next-door starlet, but he can act. He reaps praises and awards for his excellent performances on television.

Few regrets

But he can easily shed tears and draw pain from his past experiences. But he has few regrets. He doesn't mind not having a college degree because acting has made him earn enough to buy a house for his family in Antipolo. But someday, he would love to go back to school.

"I want to get into directing I've already inquired at UP Diliman because they offer a film course. The problem is, with my current schedule, I can't go to school yet," Jericho sighs.

The *teleserye*, "Pangako Sa 'Yo" drains him emotionally because he has to shift from happiness to jealousy, to worry to anger and grief depending on the scene they're taping. But he singles out his underwater scene in "Tanging Yaman" as his most traumatic to date.

"During the shoot, they turned off all the lights. I was underwater and it was very dark. I'm hydrophobic so it was really hard. The only thing I had with me was the compressor. Of course, I had to remove the compressor to get rid of the bubbles.

"I was freaking out. After we shot that scene, I had to struggle to get out of the pool because they put weights in my legs. I went to a corner and *iyak ako nang iyak pagkatapos*," he shares.

Sole breadwinner

Jericho didn't have an easy childhood. He went to five elementary schools because they transferred a lot. His mom was the sole breadwinner in the family.

JERICHO, right, with "Hunk" members (clockwise) Diether Ocampo, Piolo Pascual and Carlos Agassi.

"I'm a mama's boy," Jericho grins. "My mom used to give me baths even when I was already in elementary. I was such a baby. I love my Mom so much."

He's currently shooting "Trip" under director Gilbert Perez and "Mindanao" with director Marilou Diaz-Abaya. Doesn't his family complain about his hectic schedule?

"No they treat what I do as work. Show business paved the way for us to be together again and live in one house. We were separated from each other before because we had to live with relatives."

Rehearsals

He devotes Wednesdays and Sundays for rehearsals with Piolo Pascual, Bernard Palanca, Diether Ocampo and Carlos Agassi. Collectively known as "the hunks" on the Sunday variety show, "ASAP," they are gearing up for their first major concert on July 11 at Music Museum. Jericho cites their Village People medley as one of their memorable performances on "ASAP."

Jericho doesn't have a strong singing voice but he apparently loves music. What sort of music does he enjoy listening to?

"I like Kid Rock, Nirvana, Red Hot Chili Peppers, The Corrs and the Beach Boys. I am also partial to '80s music. I love Louis Armstrong and Depeche Mode. From classics to rock 'n' roll *ang gusto ko*," he says.

He claims to be a typical 21-year old. When he isn't taping or shooting, he hits the malls to watch a movie or shop for clothes. "Sometimes, I surf in La Union. That's my therapy because I'm hydrophobic. I go to the gym at least once a week. I usually hang-out in billiard bars. I go to raves and parties, but I only dance when I'm tipsy," he blurts out shyly.

He's down-to-earth and simple. He doesn't mind washing dishes, and he prepares his own costumes for work. Before sleeping, he tries to figure out what to wear the next day.

Slow mover

"I move slowly *kasi*. I take forever to dress up. Before, it took me longer because I ironed my own clothes. I go through several shirts and pants before finally deciding what to wear. *Kaya lahat gusot-gusot na pagkatapos kong magbihis.*

"I'm also fond of cleaning the house. But I want my room to be *magulo*. Even if it's a mess, I know where every single thing is located. No one can touch my room, I clean it myself," Jericho boasts.

He dreams of having his own restaurant and surf shop someday. When he gets married, he wants to be a good husband and father. Jericho's sensitivity and candidness earns him more *pogi* points as an actor, and his no-nonsense attitude and practicality make him stand out as a regular guy.

AM/FM

Picks and pans, 'Rush Hour' and 'Knowledge Power'

By Rito P. Asilo

SURFING the radio airlanes regularly for the past months has shown us a variety of programs and formulas that radio stations adopt to create an identity.

Soothing voices

Jazz-based stations hire DJs with perfect diction and soothing voices to attract the yuppie set. Hard-hitting news stations require equally no-nonsense commentators to scare the bejesus out of public officials—even their diction is hard and defy description.

Pop music stations use disc jocks who can readily dish out smart-sounding one-liners and wry, loaded comments about anything and everything.

Religious programs employ all-knowing charismatic figures who believe in themselves more than in what they preach. And advice show gurus need to use sympathetic tones to attract the lost and the intellectually challenged.

Of course, some radio shows and hosts defy classification. Quite a number of them, we can't write about because there's nothing interesting about them, unless you convince yourself that writing about weird habits and disturbing mannerisms is part of your job.

Simple greeting

There's the lady DJ who hosts an R&B late-night show on the FM band who, as she introduces a song she obviously likes, says, "Hey, roll it up, light it up, pass the joint!" Is she talking about opening a candy cane or what? And then, she messes up a simple greeting for a lonely guy in Palawan—"He hails from Puerto Piren, piren, pirencesa," she stumbles. Oh, she's probably just sleepy, right?

There's this irreverent male duo that makes fun of its listeners, but the fans don't seem to mind. "Don't you hate it when someone interrupts your momentum when you pee?," one deadpans.

The other asks a similarly mind-boggling question, "Will guys ever learn to put the toilet seat down?" For these two, there are no obvious answers, but the questions linger in their listeners' minds.

Before the night is over, they have already discussed the following: "Have you ever had an ant in your thingie?," "Who is the handsomest of the Baldwin brothers (Alec, William, Stephen and Daniel. *Nope*! Adam is *not* one of them, just *look* at him.)?" "Will clueless fans ever learn how to simply vanish when they're not needed anymore?" Very academic questions, indeed!

Then there are the infuriating hosts who tell off their listeners, "*Alam ko nga, e! Huwag mo akong sabihan ng* 'You know' because I know more than you do!" "*Makinig ka nga sa* monitor *mo at patayin mo ang radyo kung gusto mong makipag-usap sa akin!*" "*Mga tanga lang nag-iisip ng ganyan,* Mr. X." Can somebody please teach these hosts manners?

Delightful programs

Of course, there are a number of delightful programs that we ended up liking. Chico and Delamar's dwKC (6-9 a.m., 93.9 FM) morning show, "Rush Hour," has a number of portions that their fans really look forward to, their top 10s, their "Like A Version," their "Dear Chics and Del," etc.

We will feature them lengthily soon because there are lots of very nice things about the show, not the least of which is the obvious chemistry of its smart, but eternally lovelorn, hosts.

No wonder the program is highly anticipated. Proof of their popularity is the fact that the duo has already recorded an album. Yikes!

Another interesting discovery that we made as we browsed the airlanes on a lazy Sunday afternoon, is dwIZ's radio program (882 kHz) hosted by—hold your breath—Yoyoy Villame! Yes, you heard it right, the guy who immortalized "Mag-exercise Tayo Tuwing Umaga," "Granada" and "Magellan," has his own gabfest on the radio, but we have yet to tune in to it in its entirety. We just caught the last song (with Yoyoy singing a ballad in Cebuano!) as we got ready to listen to Dr. Margie Holmes' controversial sex-advice show.

Even the popular '80s pyramids guru, the controversial Johnny Midnight, *still* has his "Midnight Connection" aired over dzRJ 810 kHz. But it was mostly the opinions of his listeners that they talked about, not the healing powers of the pyramids.

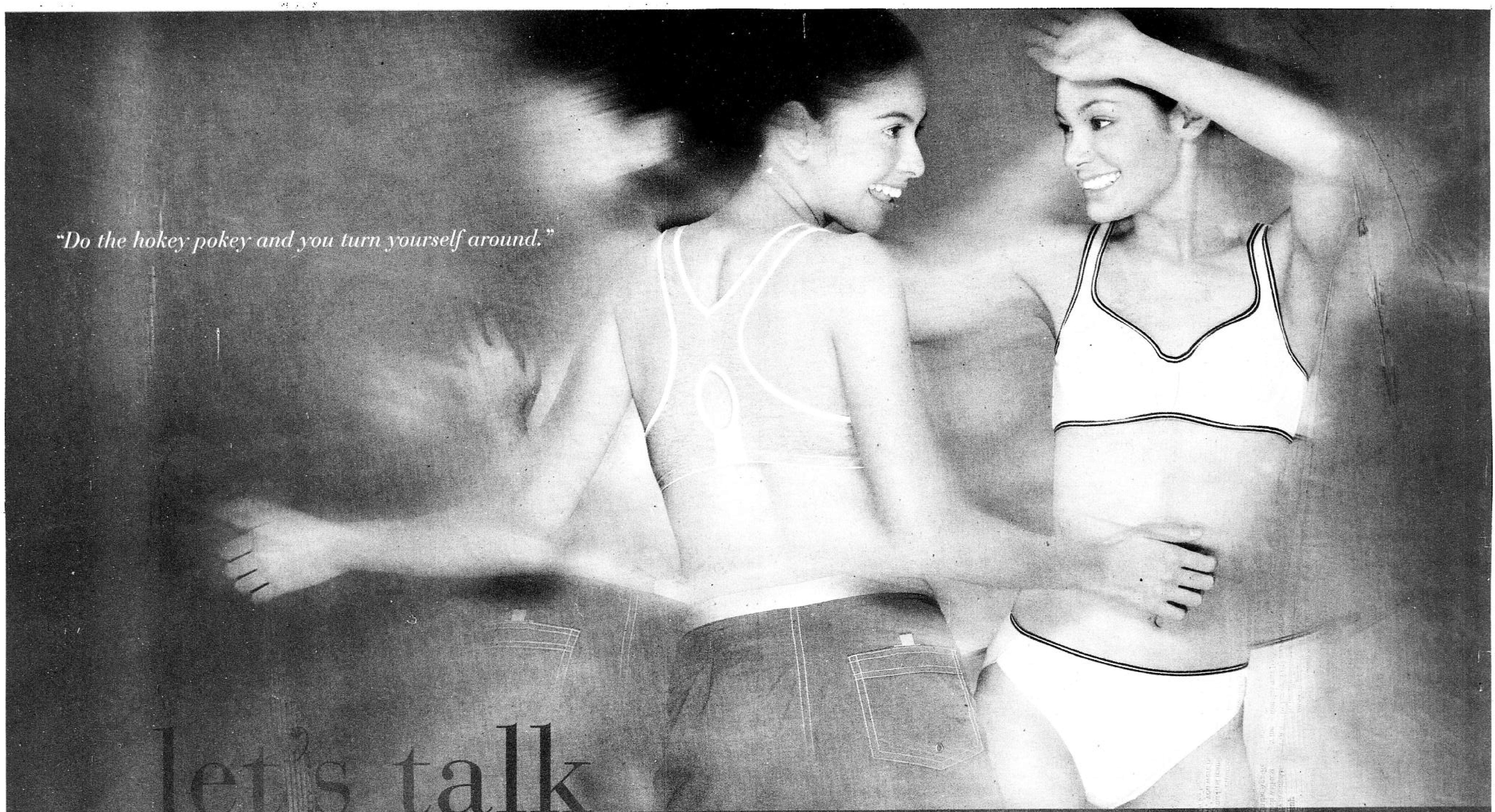
Trivia buff

But what really caught our attention recently was when we tuned in to Ernie Baron's dzMM evening show, "Knowledge Power." Sometimes, he comes up with such outrageous bits and pieces that even a trivia buff would be hard-pressed to tell where he got his information.

Consider this: If you drill a hole from Mandaluyong to the center of the Earth, and straight through it, you will end up in Brazil!

So, *Ka* Ernie, if Erap drills a hole from the Veterans Memorial Hospital in Quezon City, will he end up in Brazil, or will he take a detour to his *Boracay* Mansion? Will Brazil grant him asylum? Now *that's* a tough trivia question good enough for "Who Wants to be A Millionaire?"

But we have observed that *Ka* Ernie is quite impatient with some of his listeners—which is a pity. Sometimes, we don't even switch stations anymore when we hear him "lecture" a listener about what the poor guy did wrong (loud radio monitor, unclear explanation of situation, unwelcome second questions)—we just turn the radio off.


"Do the hokey pokey and you turn yourself around."
let's talk

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Spielberg's 'A.I.' leads US box office

ACTOR Haley Joel Osment (left) and director Steven Spielberg before the premiere of "A.I. Artificial Intelligence."

By Dean Goodman

LOS ANGELES—Director Steven Spielberg returned to the top of the North American box office on Sunday with his first movie in three years, "A.I. Artificial Intelligence," a science-fiction drama originally developed by late filmmaker Stanley Kubrick.

"A.I." (released by Warner Bros.) grossed an estimated $30.1 million for the Friday-to-Sunday period, pushing last weekend's champion, "The Fast and the Furious" (Universal) to No. 2 with $20 million. Eddie Murphy's "Dr. Dolittle 2" (Fox) fell to No. 3 with $15.4 million in its second weekend.

Robot boy

With a reported budget of $100 million, "A.I." stars 13-year-old Haley Joel Osment ("The Sixth Sense") as a robot boy programmed to love. Unable to find complete acceptance from his human family or fellow machines he begins a quest to find out where he truly belongs. The film also stars Jude Law and Frances O'Connor.

Despite its kid-friendly PG-13 rating, "A.I." played mainly to moviegoers aged over 25, according to Warner Bros. distribution president Dan Fellman. The studio, a unit of AOL Time Warner Inc., is splitting any profits with DreamWorks SKG, the privately held studio cofounded by Spielberg.

Strong reviews

Fellman added that moviegoers were drawn to the movie by the strong reviews and out of curiosity about the Spielberg/Kubrick collaboration. Kubrick had prepared extensive storyboards and discussed his pet project with Spielberg before his fatal heart attack in March 1999.

Spielberg's last film, "Saving Private Ryan," debuted at No. 1 with $30.6 million in June 1998. Kubrick's posthumous release, "Eyes Wide Shut," bowed at No. 1 with $21.7 million in July 1999, boosted by stars Tom Cruise and Nicole Kidman.

This weekend's top 10 contained two other new releases. Director John Singleton's "Baby Boy" (Columbia), an urban drama starring Tyrese Gibson, opened at No. 5 with $8.6 million. Since its Wednesday bow, the film has grossed $11.7 million.

The teen romance "Crazy/Beautiful" (Touchstone), a tale of forbidden love starring Kirsten Dunst, debuted at No. 8 with $4.5 million. The low-budget urban comedy "Pootie Tang" (Paramount), based on a skit from "The Chris Rock Show," opened at No. 12 with $1.6 million.

Columbia Pictures is a unit of Sony Corp. Touchstone Pictures is a unit of Walt Disney Co. Paramount Pictures is a unit of Viacom Inc.

The top 12 films grossed $115.9 million, down 14 percent from last weekend, and down 7 percent from the year-ago period when "The Perfect Storm" opened at No. 1 with $41 million.

Relative unknowns

After 10 days in release, "The Fast and the Furious" has grossed $77.8 million. The street racing film, which stars relative unknowns Vin Diesel and Paul Walker, cost a modest $38 million to produce. Universal is a unit of Vivendi Universal.

"Dr. Dolittle 2" has pulled in $51 million, also after 10 days, and should end up with about $100 million, predicted Bruce Snyder, president of distribution at Twentieth Century Fox, a unit of Fox Entertainment Group Inc. Murphy's first "Dolittle" film finished with $144 million in 1998.

"Lara Croft: Tomb Raider" (Paramount), starring Angelina Jolie, fell one place to No. 4 in its third weekend with $9.8 million, taking its 17-day total to $101.2 million. As with "The Fast and the Furious," "Tomb Raider" lost 50 percent of its audience from last weekend, the biggest slide in the top 10.

This weekend likely marks the last time "Pearl Harbor" will feature in the top 10. Disney's World War Two epic fell two places to No. 9 with $4.4 million. After six weekends, the film has grossed $179.4 million, and box office observers believe it will struggle to reach $200 million. *Reuters*

OSMENT in a scene from Spielberg's film.

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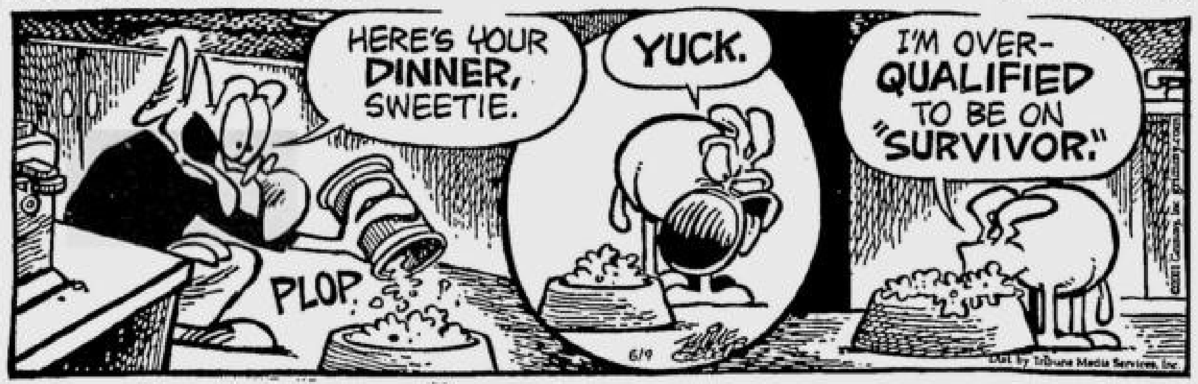
MOTHER GOOSE & GRIMM

BY MIKE PETERS


HERE'S YOUR DINNER, SWEETIE.
PLOP
YUCK.
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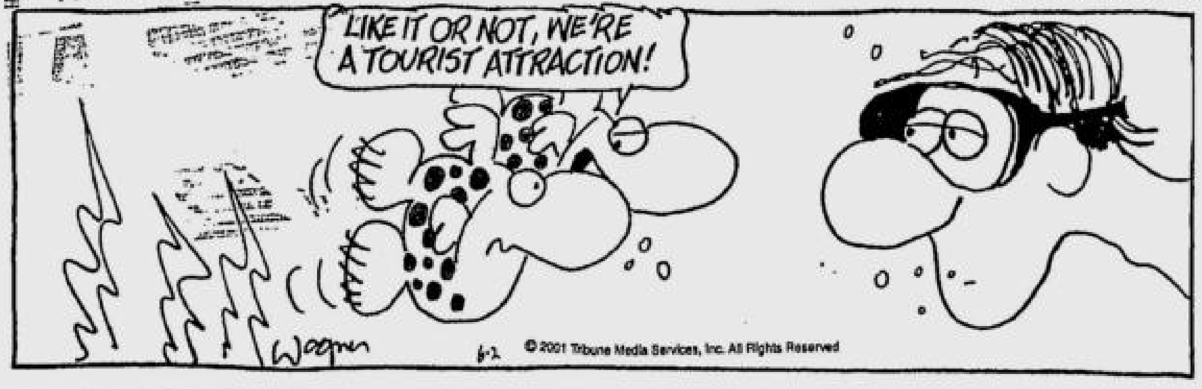
ANIMAL CRACKER

BY FRED WAGNER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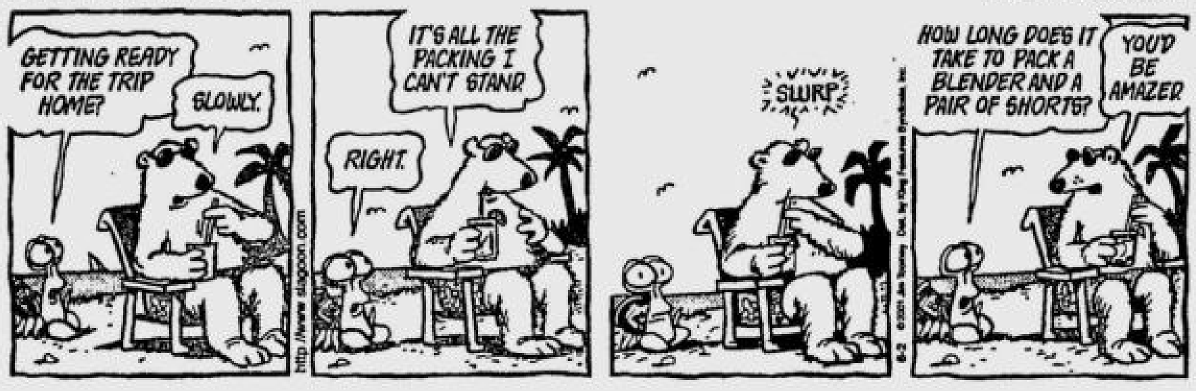
BY JIM TOOMEY


GETTING READY FOR THE TRIP HOME?
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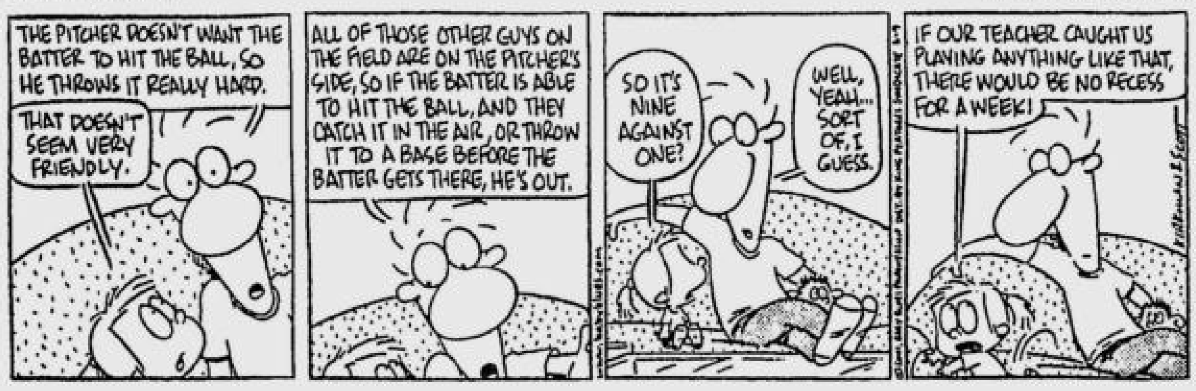
BY JERRY SCOTT


THE PITCHER DOESN'T WANT THE BATTER TO HIT THE BALL, SO HE THROWS IT REALLY HARD.
THAT DOESN'T SEEM VERY FRIENDLY.
ALL OF THOSE OTHER GUYS ON THE FIELD ARE ON THE PITCHER'S SIDE, SO IF THE BATTER IS ABLE TO HIT THE BALL, AND THEY CATCH IT IN THE AIR, OR THROW IT TO A BASE BEFORE THE BATTER GETS THERE, HE'S OUT.
SO IT'S NINE AGAINST ONE?
WELL, YEAH... SORT OF, I GUESS.
IF OUR TEACHER CAUGHT US PLAYING ANYTHING LIKE THAT, THERE WOULD BE NO RECESS FOR A WEEK!
KIRKMAN & SCOTT

HOROSCOPE

BY EUGENIA LAST

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Ringo Starr, Pierre Cardin, Shelley Duvall, Bill Campbell, Joe Spano, Michelle Kwan

Happy Birthday: Re-evaluate your game plan and be sure that your thinking is clear. You have a thirst for knowledge this year, and the best place to direct your energy will be into learning and honing the skills you already have. Your hard work will pay off if you're patient. Your numbers: 6, 19, 21, 27, 40, 41

ARIES (March 21-April 19): Your attitude leaves something to be desired. Be sure to keep doors open. You will be self-deceptive regarding your situation and surroundings. Don't make irreversible decisions.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): It's better to spend time with acquaintances than with those you live with. Disputes will lead to estrangement if you stick around the house. Head out and do something worthwhile.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): You need to clear your head and rethink your financial direction. Put some exertion into improving your property. The hard work will help you make decisions.

CANCER (June 21-July 22): You won't be fooling anyone, especially your mate. Your moodiness will be hard on the whole family. You could probably use some time away by yourself.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): This is a great day to mix business with pleasure. Get together with co-workers and find out all you can about their intentions and professional directions.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): Travel will be favorable. You can meet intriguing characters. Added knowledge will give you the edge when dealing with others. Love is most definitely in the picture if you want it.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): Erratic behavior will cause isolation at home. If family members want to do their own thing, let them. You will find it difficult to relate to children and their problems.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): Friends or relatives may interfere with your personal objectives. Don't ask for others' opinions if you wish to avoid conflicts. Travel will lead to interesting involvements.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): Stress or poor dietary habits may cause stomach problems. Be prepared to help a friend with a legal matter that has been causing major turmoil in their life.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): You will put on the pounds easily. Self-improvement projects will be necessary. You can accomplish a great deal if you work on creative hobbies. Don't be afraid to try something new.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): A secret love affair will be frazzling. You will find that your reputation is at stake and that the person in question is playing with your emotions. Stop this fiasco before it gets out of hand.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): You need to busy yourself with worthwhile causes. Look into some volunteer work for an organization you believe in. You will meet a new companion if you get out and mingle.

Birthday Baby: You're a caring Crab. When it comes to quick wit, ingenious ideas and wanting to try new things, you are outstanding. You are a trendsetter and always a little ahead of your time.

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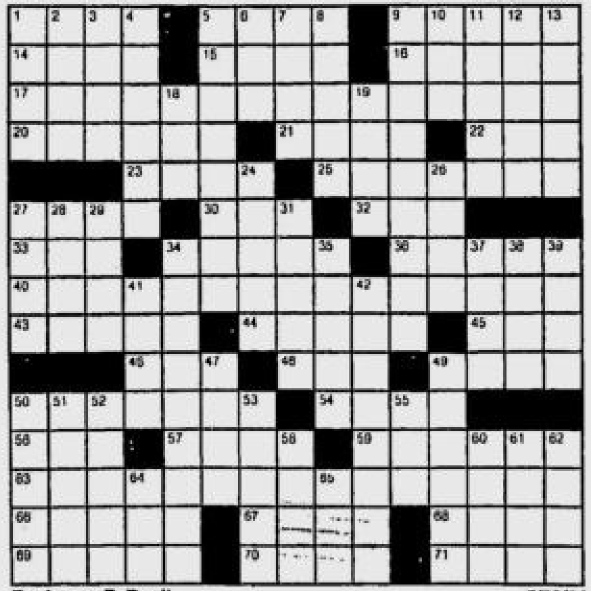
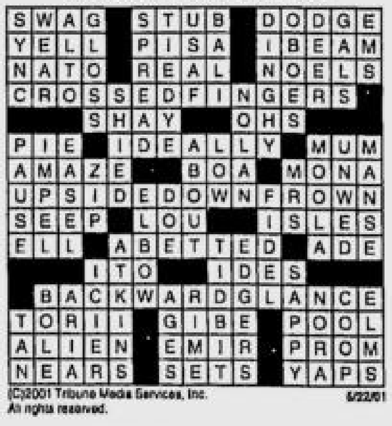
16 Novel thoughts
17 Personal belongings
20 Nicaraguan president (1984-90)
21 Blubbers
22 Neckline shape
23 Frolic
25 Supplicate
27 Overabundant
30 Nest-egg initials
32 Actor Brynner
33 Buckeyes' sch.
34 Folklore creature
36 Cushy class
40 Washers and dryers, e.g.
43 Director Kurosawa
44 Move furtively
45 Lofty mountain
46 Alfonso's queen
48 Long time between dates?
49 Little rascals
50 Asian temples
54 Commercial district
56 Pres. Lincoln
57 New England team, briefly
59 Fortified residence
63 November event
66 Bursera resin
67 Poet's Ireland
68 Oklahoma city
69 Start of rehab
70 Final bio?
71 Animal quarters

DOWN
1 Rival rival
2 One of Henry VIII's six
3 Give off
4 Forbidding
5 Carotene constituent
6 Mature
7 Pacifying offers
8 Miscue
9 Twerp
10 Gator tail?
11 Audacity
12 Goes out with
13 Up to now
18 In the past
19 Follow orders
24 Buttresses
26 __ Bator, Mongolia
27 Capital of Italia
28 Writer Dinesen
29 Japanese peak
31 Enough
34 International road race
35 "The Waste Land" penner
37 Con job
38 Shrill cry
39 Eurasian vipers
41 Nabisco cookie
42 Uncorrupted
47 Perfect report card
49 Top of the foot
50 Beeped
51 White poplar
52 "The Screens" dramatist
53 Pope who crowned Charlemagne
55 Female GI
58 Belgrade resident
60 Pitchfork prong
61 Meat cut
62 Means justifiers?
64 Comic Phillips
65 Diocletian's card count?



By James E. Buell
Edgewater, FL
5/22/01

PREVIOUS PUZZLE ANSWER



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A	M	A	Z	E	■	■	B	O	A	■	M	O	N	A
U	P	S	I	D	E	D	O	W	N	F	R	O	W	N
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■	■	■	I	T	O	■	■	I	D	E	S	■	■	■
■	B	A	C	K	W	A	R	D	G	L	A	N	C	E
T	O	R	I	I	■	G	I	B	E	■	P	O	O	L
A	L	I	E	N	■	E	M	I	R	■	P	R	O	M
N	E	A	R	S	■	S	E	T	S	■	Y	A	P	S

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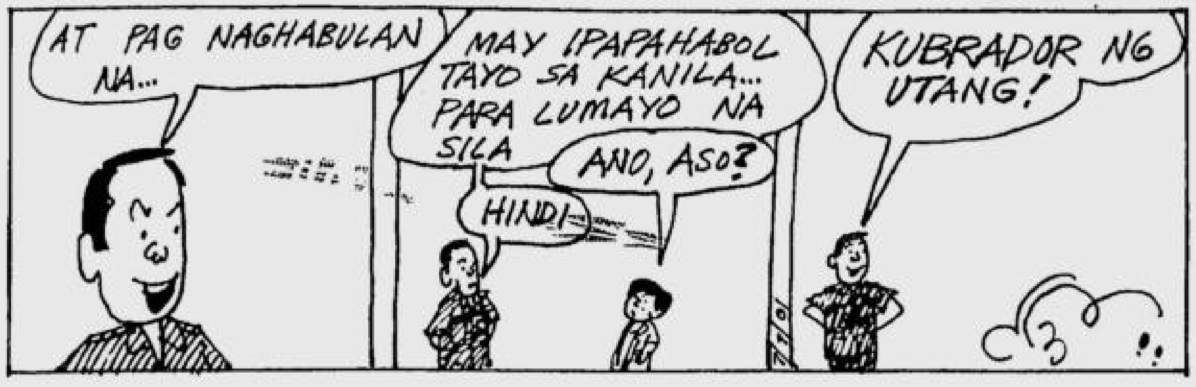
5/22/01

ANSWER ON MONDAY

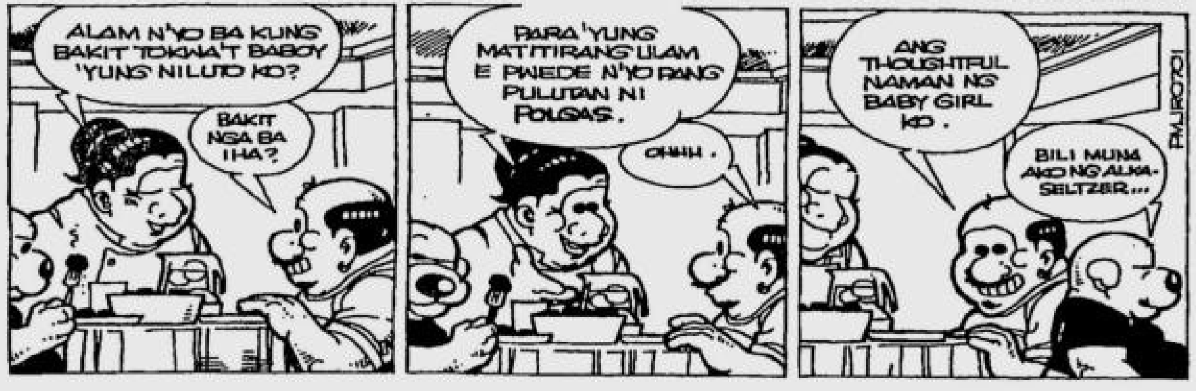
A. LIPIN

BY JESS ABRERA


AT PAG NAGHABULAN NA...
MAY IPAPAHABOL TAYO SA KANILA... PARA LUMAYO NA SILA
ANO, ASO?
HINDI
KUBRADOR NG UTANG!

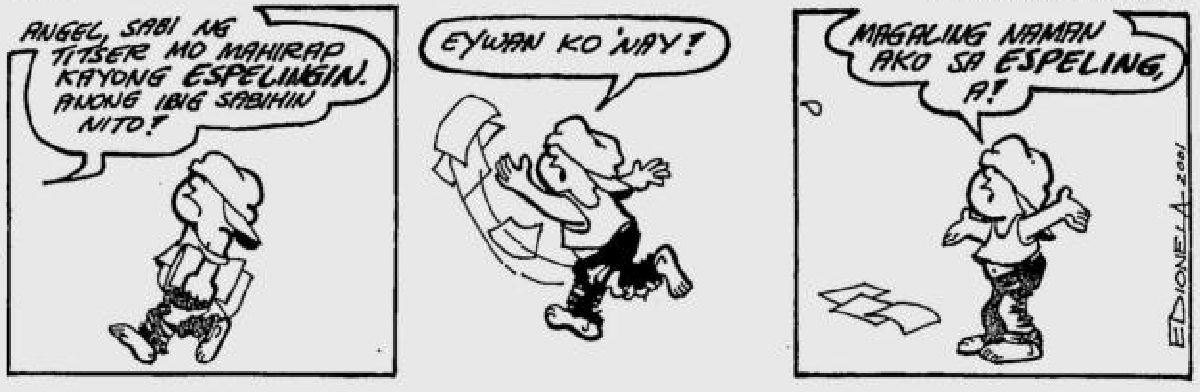
PUGAD BABOY

BY P.M. JUNIOR


ALAM N'YO BA KUNG BAKIT TOKWA'T BABOY 'YUNG NILUTO KO?
BAKIT NGA BA IHA?
PARA 'YUNG MATITIRANG ULAM E PWEDE N'YO PANG PULUTAN NI POLGAS.
OHHH.
ANG THOUGHTFUL NAMAN NG BABY GIRL KO.
BILI MUNA AKO NG ALKA-SELTZER...
PAJR07.01

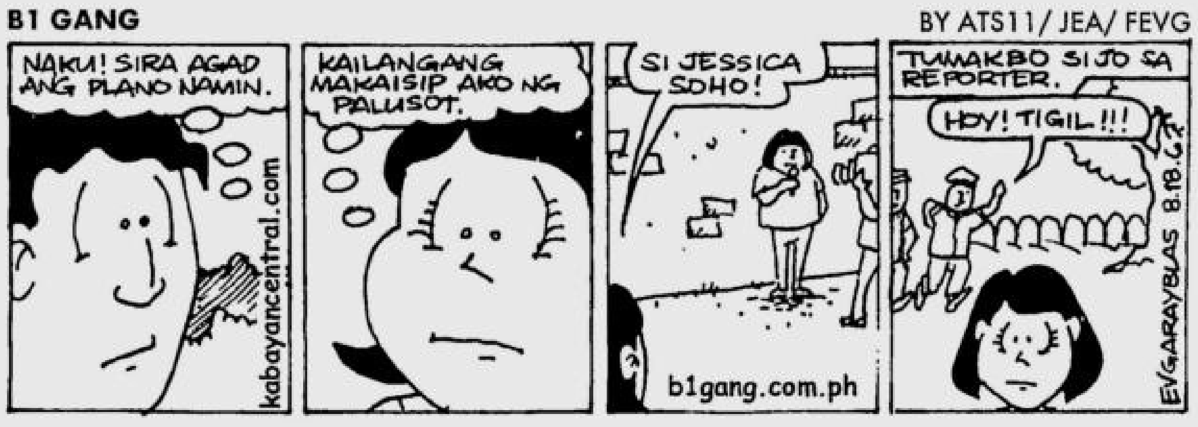
SIMO

BY EDGAR DIONELA


ANGEL, SABI NG TITSER MO MAHIRAP KAYONG ESPELINGIN. ANONG IBIG SABIHIN NITO?
EYWAN KO 'NAY!
MAGALING NAMAN AKO SA ESPELING, A!
EDIONELA 2001

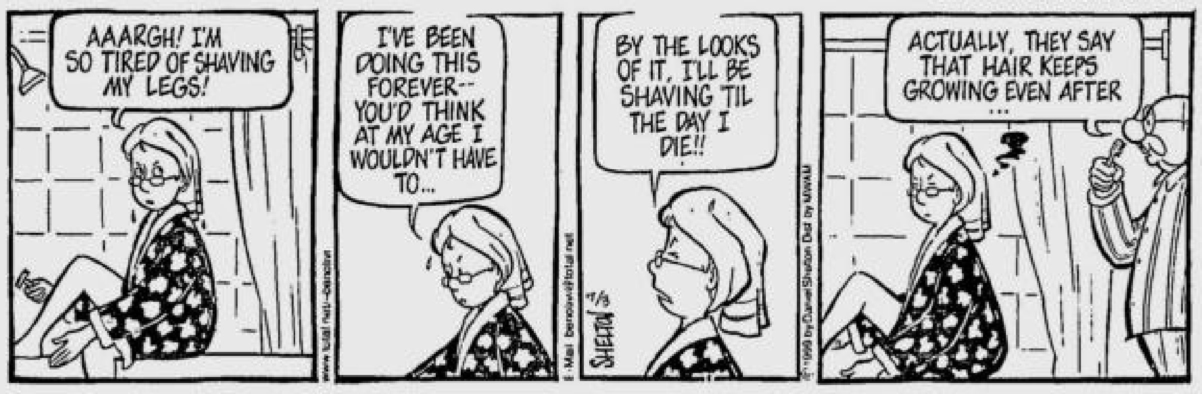
B1 GANG

BY ATS11/ JEA/ FEVG


NAKU! SIRA AGAD ANG PLANO NAMIN.
kabayancentral.com
KAILANGANG MAKAISIP AKO NG PALUSOT.
SI JESSICA SOHO!
b1gang.com.ph
TUMAKBO SI JO SA REPORTER.
HOY! TIGIL!!!
EVGARAYBLAS 8.18.C2

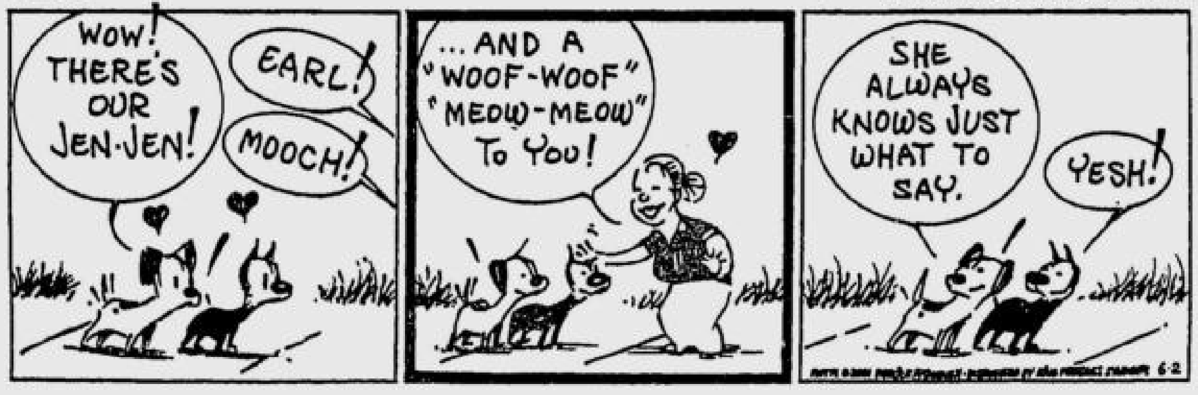
BEN

BY DANIEL SHELTON


AAARGH! I'M SO TIRED OF SHAVING MY LEGS!
I'VE BEEN DOING THIS FOREVER-- YOU'D THINK AT MY AGE I WOULDN'T HAVE TO...
BY THE LOOKS OF IT, I'LL BE SHAVING TIL THE DAY I DIE!!
SHELTON 7/3
ACTUALLY, THEY SAY THAT HAIR KEEPS GROWING EVEN AFTER ...

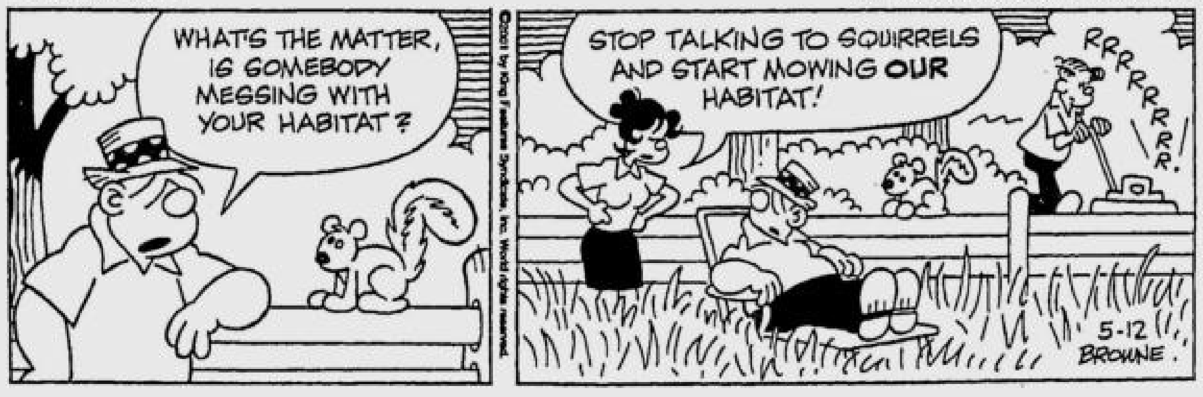
MUTTS

BY PATRICK McDONNELL


WOW! THERE'S OUR JEN-JEN!
EARL!
MOOCH!
... AND A "WOOF-WOOF" "MEOW-MEOW" TO YOU!
SHE ALWAYS KNOWS JUST WHAT TO SAY.
YESH!
6-2

HI AND LOIS

BY BRIAN & GREG WALKER


WHAT'S THE MATTER, IS SOMEBODY MESSING WITH YOUR HABITAT?
STOP TALKING TO SQUIRRELS AND START MOWING OUR HABITAT!
RRRRRRRR!
5-12
BROWNE
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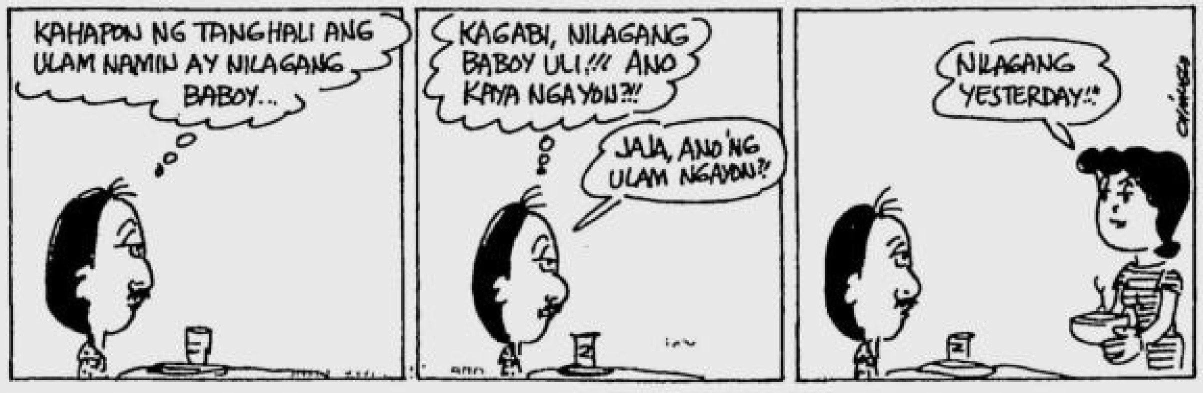
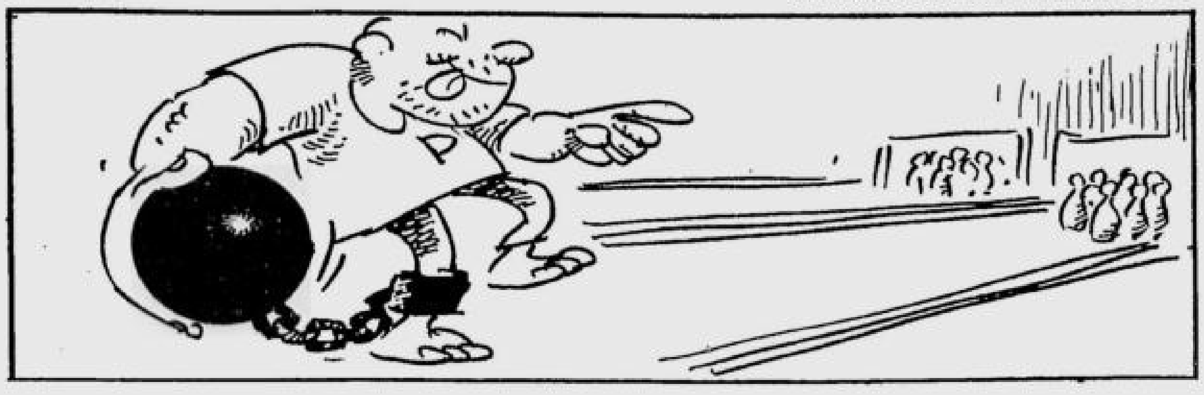
LOVEKNOTS

BY ELIZABETH CHIONGLO


KAHAPON NG TANGHALI ANG ULAM NAMIN AY NILAGANG BABOY...
KAGABI, NILAGANG BABOY ULI!!! ANO KAYA NGAYON?!!
JAJA, ANO'NG ULAM NGAYON?!
NILAGANG YESTERDAY!!
CHIONGLO

TULDOK

BY PAPU & TATUM MILAMBILING



SWITCHING CHANNELS

'Millionaire' adds Saturday telecast

By Edmund L. Sicam

DE LEON. More relaxed now.

NOW on its third season, Viva Television's "Who Wants To Be A Millionaire" or "WBAM2" as it's called, has added a Saturday telecast at 8 p.m. to its weekday shows on Mondays, Tuesdays and Thursdays, which air at 8:30 p.m. This can only mean that the game show has attracted a wide viewership.

Prospective contestants have also been keeping the show's hotline, 1-908-1000-000, busy for a chance to join the show. The show receives some 50,000 calls a week so with each call costing P30 on the average, that's revenue of P1.5 million a week shared by PLDT and Viva TV.

We joined a group of six entertainment writers who were recently invited to watch a taping of ""WBAM2" at the R.S.Video studios in Parañaque. We noticed that more contestants were reaching the P100,00 mark because the questions were easier. Host Christopher de Leon is more relaxed now and less excitable. Boyet admitted to us that he really had the jitters during the first few weeks of the game show.

During a lull in the taping, the floor director donned a garish outfit while he lipsynched Regine Velasquez's songs. His objective, was, of course, to make sure the audience didn't fall asleep during the show. He succeeded.

"WBAM2" is highly dependent on computer technology. The questions are all stored in the computer's memory and no one in the studio, not even Boyet, knows the answers. Only when the contestant says "final answer" does Boyet get a green or red signal on his monitor to tell him whether the answer is correct.

Instead of handwritten idiot boards, the show has a TV monitor with the corresponding lines. Also during the show, Boyet gets messages from the director on his monitor, instead of donning a headset.

After finishing one episode, Boyet joined us in the reception room which overlooks the studio to answer our questions. He said management was in a hurry to give away the top prize of P2 million, but so far the top winner has only gone as high as P300,000. He says the Pinoy contestant is *segurista*, so much so that he would rather settle for a smaller amount than risk losing it to get the jackpot prize.

Boyet himself illustrated how risk-averse a local contestant can be. We asked him what he would do if he was already assured of P500,000 and for the P1 million question, there were two choices left, a correct answer and a wrong one. If he didn't know the answer, would he answer the P1 million question? He said he would keep the P500,000.

During the interview, Boyet talked about professional contestants who made their living by joining game shows. He tries his best not to get intimidated by these professionals though he said he's on alert everytime a staffer whispers to him that he has a professional on the show.

One difficulty Boyet faces is the correct pronunciation of some words and they've had to do a retake if his pronunciation is wrong. We noticed though that he mispronounced the word "beard" but there was no retake. The director did ask for a few retakes because there were flies in the studio that sometimes landed on Boyet's face.

When will the show give away the P2 million top prize? Boyet refused to speculate, saying it would take a contestant who is a risk-taker to go for the top prize.

Interactive TV

Ah, the wonders of technology! Can't watch your favorite show tomorrow night because you have a hot date? No problem, program your VCR to tape the show while you're away and watch it when you come home.

But what if you programmed your VCR wrong and taped an advertorial instead? No problem, the Internet can take you to various websites of TV shows which contain summaries of episodes, as well as other goodies.

Take the ABS-CBN.com website. By logging in, you can see a special feature on the monsters of "Okatokat," view the bloopers of "Arriba, Arriba," spend a day with "Pangako Sa 'Yo's" Kristine Hermosa as she pampers herself in a beauty salon, or get the latest show biz *tsismis* from Boy Abunda and Kris Aquino of "The Buzz."

It's the interactive features that make the site popular. There are scheduled chat sessions for fans to connect with their favorite stars, message boards where feedback can be posted, polls on current issues and downloadable items like screensavers and photographs. At the same time, fans can upload their photographs in certain sites and contribute poems and other pieces.

Recently, ABS-CBN's Interactive Department invited us to watch "ASAP" where the website would be promoted. All the big-name stars of the different series as well as sister companies Star Cinema and Star Records were there to plug the website. Viewers could also chat with the many stars through ABS-CBN.com.

With technology, fans can now do live chats with the stars instead of waiting for them to answer their letters. The process may seem impersonal to some but it certainly exposes the stars to more people than at a fans' day affair.

Before we proceeded to "ASAP," we were introduced to Judith Ramos, the new VJ of PinoyCentral, a website which is associated with ABS-CBN.com. Judith handles the IT segment of "Alas Singko Y Medya" which airs Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays at 7:30 a.m.

Judith is a familiar face on TV because of the many commercials she has done, like the Palmolive Circle of Ten, Coffeemate and Particles. An occupational therapist by profession, she also accepts voicing assignments for various projects.

'CSI' premieres on AXN Action TV

By Nestor U. Torre

VIEWFINDER

Nestor U. Torre

JERRY Bruckheimer is currently in the show biz spotlight due to his having produced the recent blockbuster war epic, "Pearl Harbor." On TV, Bruckheimer is similarly in the news, having executive-produced the hit new series, "CSI: Crime Scene Investigation," which premieres on AXN Action TV on July 18.

"CSI" is a fast-paced show about a team of forensic investigators trained to solve seemingly unsolvable crimes by assessing the evidence at the scene of the crime.

The program was nominated for a Golden Globe Award for best dramatic television series, the only new show to be nominated in that category. It has won other accolades, like Best New Series of the Year in the 2001 TV Guide Awards.

It was also the highest-rated new drama series in the US. Thus, it enjoys the best of both worlds, excellence and popularity combined. "CSI" will be shown on AXN every Wednesday at 9 p.m.

What makes the series so special? It challenges viewers to solve crimes in tandem with its investigators, or figure out the clues before they do. To do this, it introduces viewers to some state-of-the-art forensic tools and procedures, like:

AFIS—Automated Fingerprint Identification System. A computer network that scans crime-scene fingerprints and compares them with millions of prints collected around the world.

ALS—Alternate Light Source. It produces visible and invisible light at various wavelengths to enhance items (fluids, fingerprints, clothing fibers) as evidence, causing the spot to glow under a black light.

Comparative Microscope. Dual microscope that allows simultaneous viewing of two separate objects, for purposes of comparison.

Electrostatic Dust-print Lifter. Device that deploys an electrostatic field to lift invisible dust prints from various surface types and enhance their visibility.

Electrothermal Atomizer. Identifies the chemical composition of any substance.

Forensic Anthropology. Study of skeletal remains that can determine sex, age, race, height, weight, etc.

Toxicology. Detects the presence of drugs, chemicals, gases and toxins in blood, body fluids and tissues to determine addiction or cause of death.

Projectile Trajectory Analysis. Method for determining the path of an object, such as a bullet, through space.

BPA—Bloodstain Pattern Analysis. Science of analyzing bloodstains to determine speed, direction and impact angles. This establishes scenarios of violence to support or counter witnesses' testimony.

CODIS—Combined DNA Index System. Searches the convicted offender index, which records DNA information about sex offenders and other criminals, against the Forensic index, which records DNA information gathered at crime scenes. This system makes it possible to identify serial offenders.

With these tools and techniques, the CSI team is able to solve the most difficult cases, thus putting violent criminals behind bars and preventing them from adding more people to their list of victims.

TCG challenge winner proclaimed

Jonathan Pobre, a senior player from Parañaque, was proclaimed grand prize winner at last June 24's Pokemon Super Trainers Showdown, the midyear tournament of the Pokemon Trading Card Game at SM Megamall. He won over 127 other contestants.

Pobre won an I Mac computer from Apple Philippines, a Canon scanner and printer from Canon Philippines, a Pokemon TCG Neo Discovery booster pack from Ban Lee Trading, Inc. and gift packs from Gandour Phils.

Other winners in the TGC challenge were Philip Christopher Rama, Dick Forlales, Alain del Prado, Alvin Abing, Paolo Go and Abraham King Barbers.

'XYZ'

At 7 tonight, "XYZ" on the ABS-CBN News Channel presents "Cycles:" Love-Love Tioseco rides the 1200 Yamaha bike. Another feature focuses on cyclist Katti Sta. Ana, a member of the firefly brigade. Gym Instructor Vanessa Garcia teaches the cycle of warming up and cooling down before and after a workout. And the program ends with the second of a four-part series on HIV AIDS.

ABS-CBN workshops

The ABS-CBN Center for Communication Arts offers workshops in broadcast communication and the performing arts. Instructors include Beverly Vergel, Johnny Manahan, Ricky Lee, Laurice Guillen, Leo Rialp, Mon Ilagan, Alex Alikpala, Kata Inocencio, Eugene Villaluz and Abbygale Arenas. Call 415-3828.

Workshops this month are on Directing: Film, TV and Concerts; News: newscasting, news reporting and writing for news and documentary; Production: stage management, concert production and news production; and Acting: for TV and Film and for Musical Theater.

AXN anime festival today at SM Megamall

MONTAGE

JAG Jeans Kids goes anime as it joins the AXN Anime Festival 2001 at SM Mégamall today from 10 a.m. to 7 p.m. Exciting board games, an on-the-spot anime drawing contest, "Final Fantasy" exhibits, an AXN Final Fantasy Cosplay Contest, a tattoo center and load of cool Jag freebies await all kids.

A big attraction at the Festival is the "Final Fantasy Station"—a dungeon style booth with graffiti-sprayed walls filled with kiddie games as well as free cotton candy and cool giveaways such as "Blue Submarine" posters, anime buttons and Kids shirts.

Free surfing with Karylle's CD

Universal Records' singing star Karylle offers free surfing minutes along with her new CD, "Time to Shine." With every CD purchased comes a free pre-paid Internet card. Log on to www.universalrecords.com and click on the Surfplus logo.

The album contains "Angel of My Heart," "Now That You're Gone," "It's My Time" and a duet with the international pop star Gil, "Callin."

Janet Basco's mall tour

Janet Basco returns to the entertainment scene as Star Records mounts a series of mall shows starting tomorrow at 4 p.m. at SM Iloilo. The shows will promote "Love Is Right," Janet's debut album under Star Records.

The series continues on July 14 at SM Southmall, July 15 at SM Cebu, July 27 at SM North Edsa and July 29 at SM Megamall.

Britney Spears concert on HBO

Britney Spears' concert special, recorded live from London, will air on HBO on July 9 at 10:30 p.m. Additional playdates are July 14 at 9:45 a.m., July 19 at 9 p.m. and July 24 at 4 p.m. *(Compiled by Edmund L. Sicam)*

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E-mail: unionsq@i-next.net

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Interior Center, Mandaluyong
Tel.: 927-4261 / 451-0288
Fax: (632) 411-1264

Dream Sale

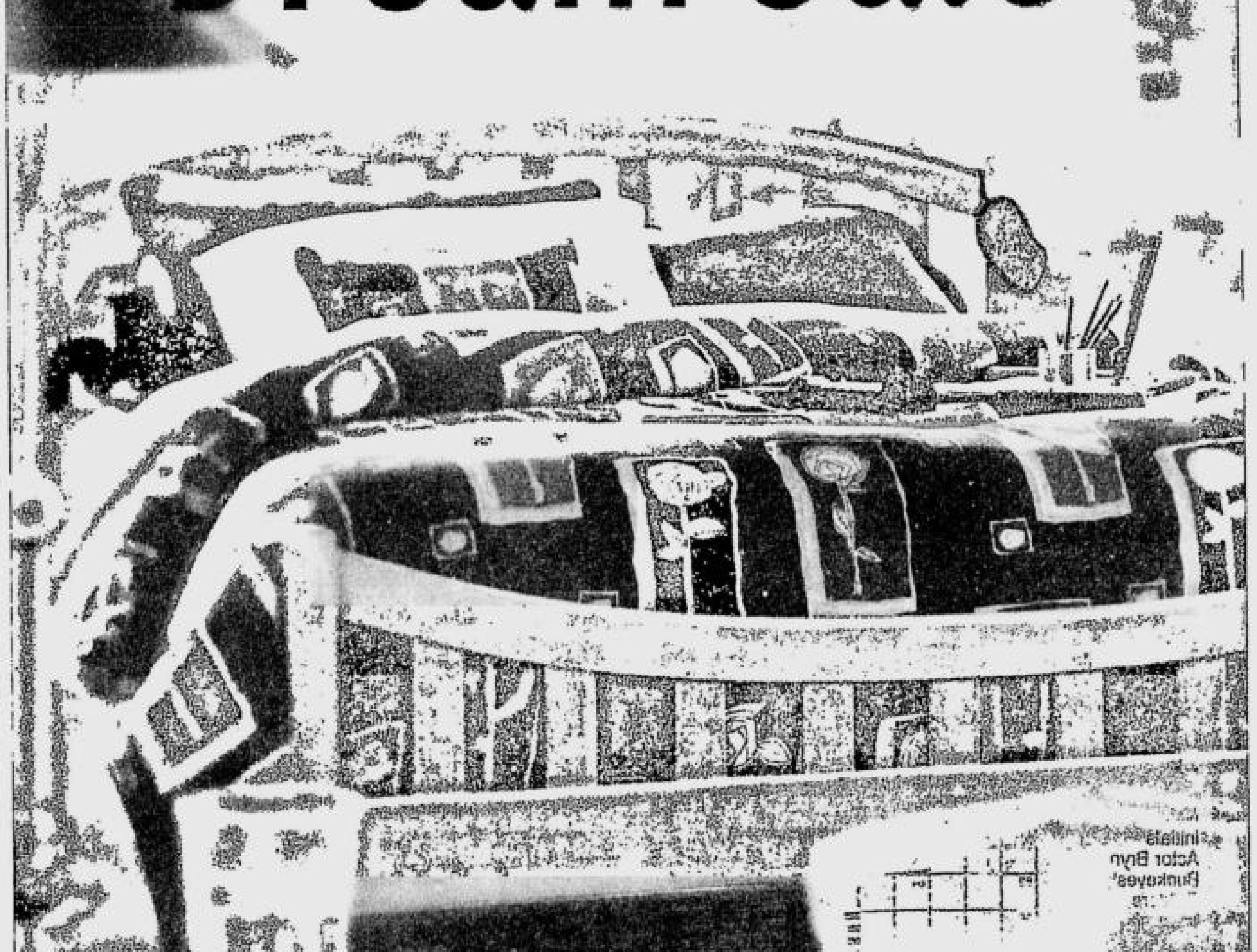

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Photo workshoppers capture striking images on location

SUMMER workshop lensmen with models from John Robert Powers.

STREET SMART

Mandy Navasero

MEET the students (photo at left) from my summer workshop Batch 2001 with nine models from John Robert Powers, shown here at the 280-hectare Riviera Golf and Country Club located along Aguinaldo Highway in Silang, Cavite.

Rolling hills

The big spread is 45 kilometers away from Makati City, is situated 1,000 feet above sea level, and is made scenic by rolling hills, lush vegetation, cool springs and waterfalls.

Front row: photography students Ronald Navasero, Malaysian Josephine Ang, Mandi Navasero, Tammy Bejar (PR for AFP-Retirement and Separation Benefit System or RSBS), Ana Marie Padre and Dennis Maliwat.

Standing, second row L-R: Lecturer Mandy Navasero, photography student Atty. Tess De la Rosa, Nelson Demitillo - make-up artist and hairstylist, John Robert Powers models Gala Castaneda, Ana Farell and sister Victoria Farell, JM Acosta, Carla Lopez, photography student Audrey Alejo.

Last row L-R: models Paulo Matibag, Francois Filamor, Korina Rebustes, mother Virgie Alonzo with model-daughter Sheila (the family lived in Norway for many years and is now back in the Philippines for good), and RSBS marketing manager Yasmine Sutaria. Not in photo are students Renato Fernandez and Ian Tañedo.

Best locations

RSBS hosted our trip to The Riviera, providing the models and photographers with two vans. Tammy Bejar and Yasmine Sutaria accompanied us to the best locations.

Our favorite at The Riviera Clubhouse is their juicy hamburger it beats anything I have tasted.

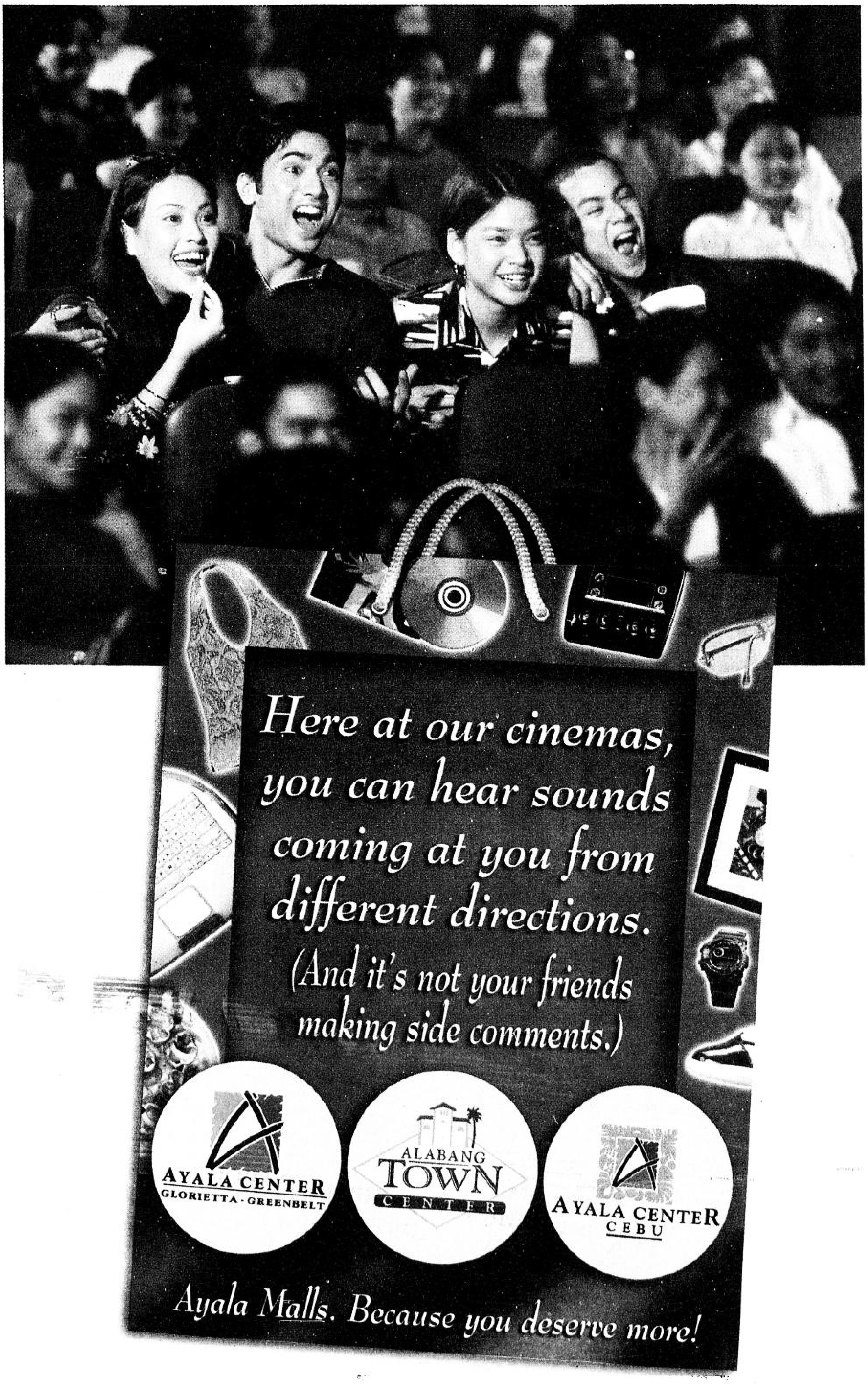
Batch 2001 has 18 graduating students, exhibiting five pieces each of 11 x 14, black-and-white images in "Emotions."

For the exhibit, students are required to present one photograph similar to an Amorsolo painting, complete with Filipiniana dress and turn of the century wooden box camera mounted on a wooden antique tripod.

At The Riviera, students captured gems of images as the John Robert Powers models were eager to help come up with very emotional images. At the end of the day, our hosts, Tammy and Yasmine, brought us to the huge swimming pools with manicured lawns and a great view of the rolling hills.

I urged the students to also photograph celebrations of life like weddings, baptisms and funerals. One wedding photographed by the students took place at Sonya's Garden in Alfonso, Cavite. The bride was Janet Oquendo of Amanpulo, who transferred recently to the Aman Resort in Maraquesh, Africa.

"THE PHOTOGRAPHER" by Mandi Navasero. Models: Carla Lopez and Ronald Navasero.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How women should be depicted in films

By Behn Cervantes

(Conclusion)

IF the problem of the Philippine movie industry is a question of economics, what is the solution, I ask Raquel Villavicencio, actor and screen writer? She gives me a look that says the obvious:

Small films

"The direction is to make smaller and more personal movies where the big stars don't eat up the biggest chunk of the limited production budget. We have seen fine, small films from China and Iran. It is time for us to look toward that direction.

"It is scary how the big Hollywood films dominate the box office, thus making some of our best efforts lose their market because they are shown simultaneously with these foreign blockbusters. The Hollywood-oriented taste developed in our people puts our films at a great disadvantage."

To what then do we credit the surprising but welcome success of Star Cinema's "Tanging Yaman?" "There was good timing there, it was shown during the Metro Manila Film Festival in December. It was a feel-good movie with a refreshing story that was a departure from the predictable action and sex films in vogue. The audience got tired of such films and was happy for the change.

"It also attracted the A and B audience because it was about a bourgeois family and dealt with old family values. It had fine packaging that included the comeback of well-respected director Laurice Guillen after a spiritual search that transformed her into a more introspective artist."

Why can only women write about themselves?

Sympathetic

"Because only they can really be sympathetic about their relationships and truly understand each other's problems. They are more introspective and thus know themselves better."

What "women's" films have touched her, and why?

"1. 'Room With A View.' It is a period film that depicts traditional and submissive women trying to break away from the constricting mores of the era.

2. 'Thelma and Louise.' A delightful yarn about women who dare get out of their comfort zones for adventure.

3. 'Hannah and Her Sisters.' This Woody Allen classic tackles sibling relationships in a way that is rarely done in American movies.

And who are the actresses Raquel admires?

"1. Susan Sarandon because she is intelligent and sexy. She has a wide range, she can play any role she sets her mind on depicting.

"2. Meryl Streep is also intelligent, sexy, and with an emotional alphabet from A to Z. However, I especially like her in comedy. It is wonderful that in Hollywood you can be beautiful and still be hilarious. On the local scene, beauty is synonymous only with glamour.

"3. Bette Midler. "She can be bitchy, noisy and all, but still thoroughly funny. She is consistently hilarious."

Can you separate the script from the work of the director who handles it? The answer is obviously "no" so I ask who are the (male) directors Raquel most admires for their treatment of women?

"1. (Surprise, surprise!) Eddie Garcia. "He is good, he does not caricature women. He did three of my scripts for Viva and it is obvious he likes women.

"2. Eddie Romero. He, too admires women and has due respect for strong women. *Hindi nila binababoy and babae.*"

What is wrong with other male directors? She refrained from mentioning specific names but she stated that to most male directors, "Women are merely erotic objects."

What about the gay directors? "Well, despite their good intentions, women in their stories or films serve only the purposes of the story but we don't get the in-depth character of the women."

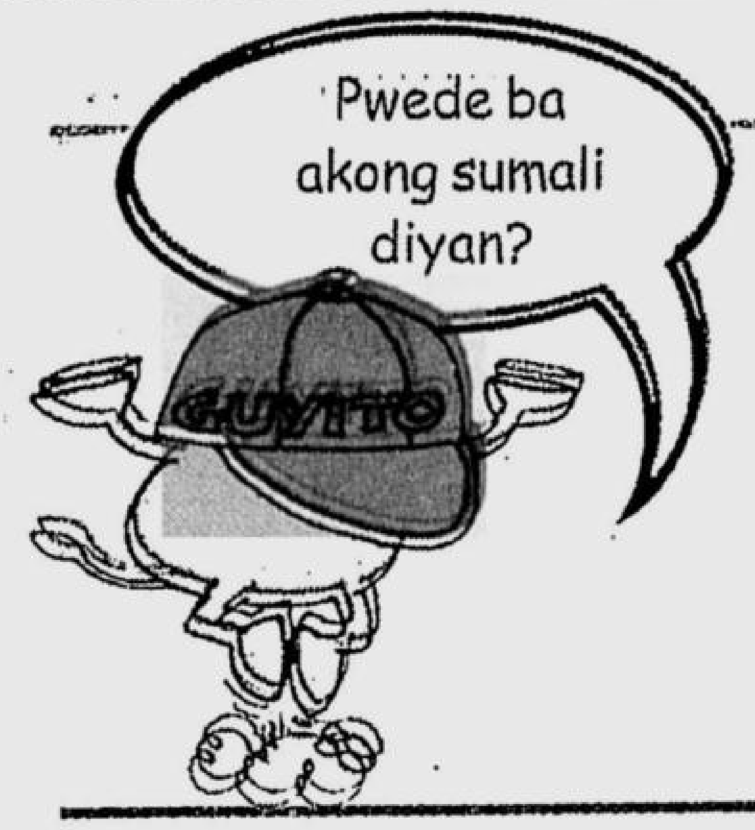
Smarter

What is the contemporary Filipina like, in Raquel's perception? "She is definitely smarter than most men. She is more socially aware, more sensitive to the world around her, and relates to it without an ego problem."

She expresses great admiration for overseas female workers who leave their families to work in hostile cultures for the good of their families. "They are truly admirable," she exclaims.

What is the problem between men and women in this day and age of alleged sexual equality? "The problem of contemporary society is that men and women still grow up without learning how to relate to one other and respect each other's differences."

What then is a truly liberated woman? "A contemporary woman, to be truly liberated, should become autonomous—economically and emotionally, so she can live and grow as an independent being with her own vision to fulfill, as well as a life to lead!"



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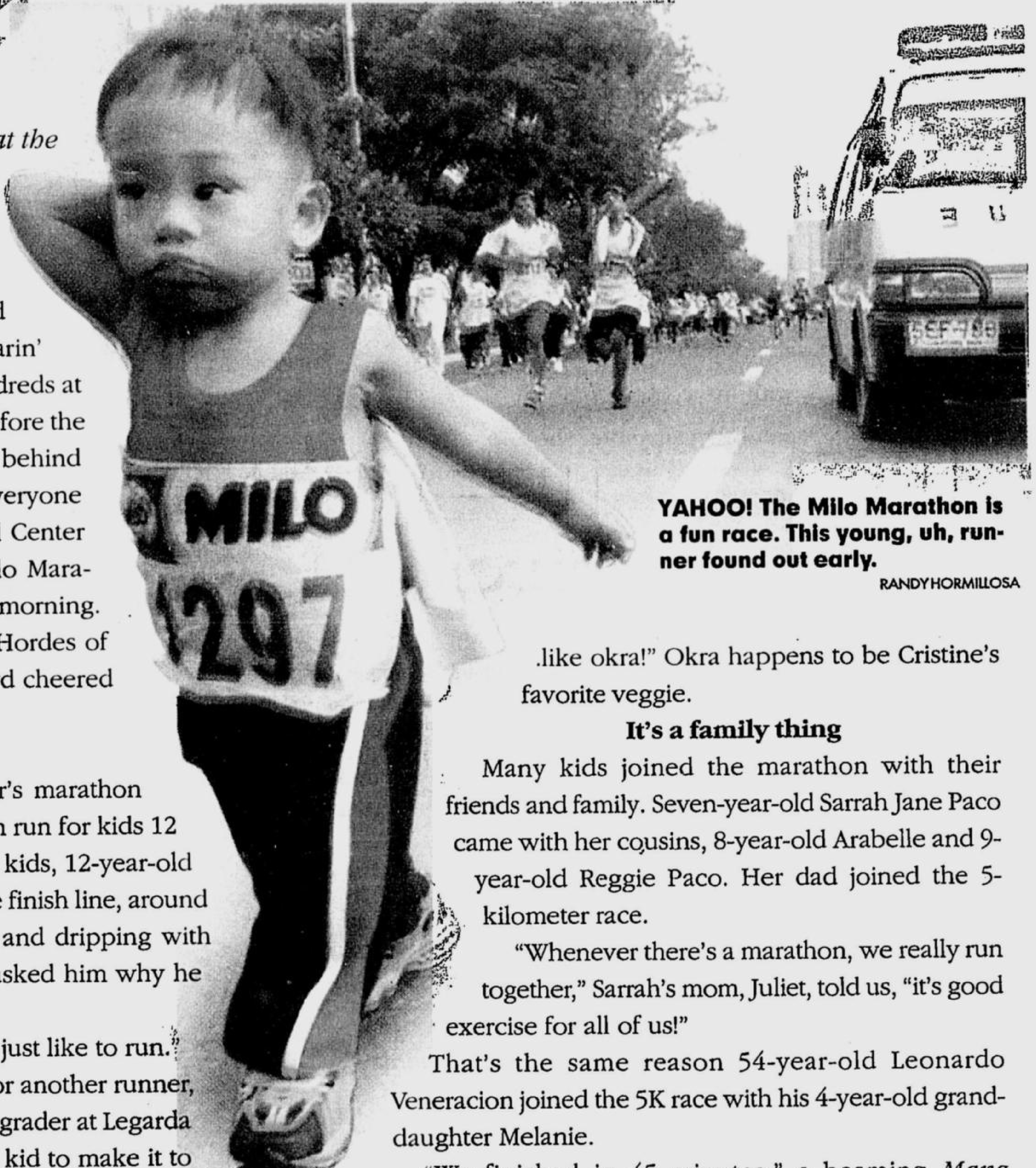
WHAT'S INSIDE:

My Silly Sister Page 2
● Story: The Girl Who Wished to Wish No More Page 8
Atomo & Weboy Page 12
Shirley's Pets Page 14

Kids a-Mara'movin"!!!

Young runners make a great showing at the 25th Milo Marathon

BY **CHRISTINE C. RIVERO**



YAHOO! The Milo Marathon is a fun race. This young, uh, runner found out early.

RANDY HORMILLOSA

BIG kids, little kids, bleary-eyed sleepy-headed kids and bouncy rarin' to race kids all huddled by the hundreds at the starting line, giggly and jittery minutes before the start of the race. Racing grown-ups stood behind them, not a few looking quite giggly too. Everyone was up before sunrise to be at the Cultural Center Complex in Pasay City where the 25th Milo Marathon was being held on June 24, a Sunday morning. Then, at exactly 6 a.m., the shot went off. Hordes of bobbing heads rushed forward as the crowd cheered and a marching band played a jolly tune.

Okra is A-OK

A total of 6,108 people joined this year's marathon with 536 participating in the 3-kilometer fun run for kids 12 years old and below. Out of those 500-plus kids, 12-year-old Rodel Orbong of Marikina made it first to the finish line, around 10 minutes after the race began. Heaving and dripping with sweat, Rodel just grinned at us when we asked him why he joined the marathon.

"I don't know," he said, still grinning, "I just like to run."

Thirteen proved to be a lucky number for another runner, 11-year-old Cristine Delfin. Cristine, a sixth-grader at Legarda Elementary School in Manila, was the 13th kid to make it to the finish line but she was also the first girl to finish the 3K race. This made her the champ in the girls' 10-12 years old category, which she managed to top last year too.

"I feel just like I'm playing," Cristine said of what she feels when she's running. Kids who want to run fast like she does ought to take training seriously, Cristine added.

"And they should eat well," she continues, "eat vegetables. . .like okra!" Okra happens to be Cristine's favorite veggie.

It's a family thing

Many kids joined the marathon with their friends and family. Seven-year-old Sarrah Jane Paco came with her cousins, 8-year-old Arabelle and 9-year-old Reggie Paco. Her dad joined the 5-kilometer race.

"Whenever there's a marathon, we really run together," Sarrah's mom, Juliet, told us, "it's good exercise for all of us!"

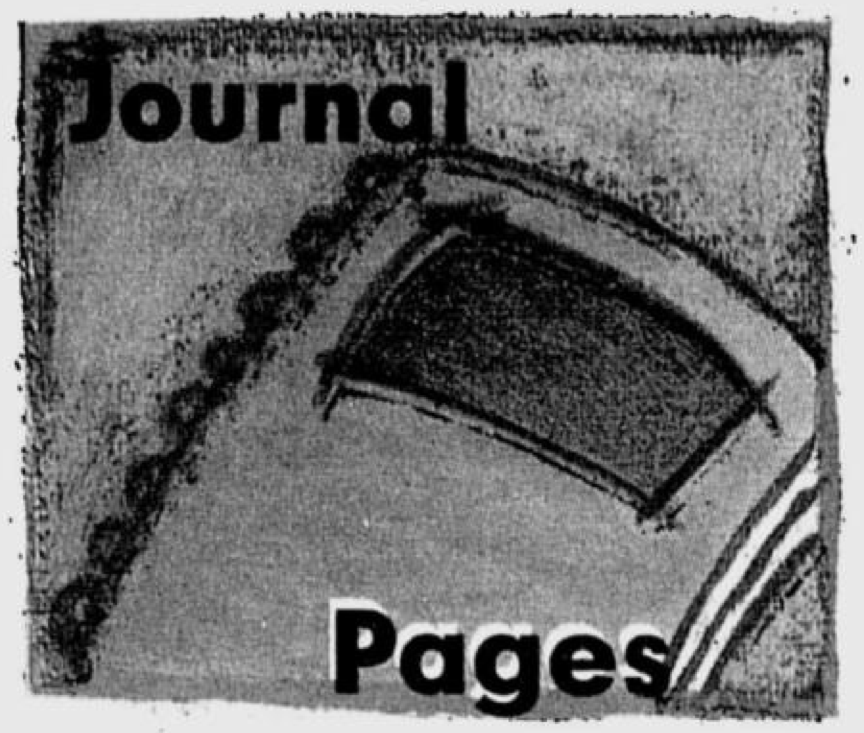
That's the same reason 54-year-old Leonardo Veneracion joined the 5K race with his 4-year-old granddaughter Melanie.

"We finished in 45 minutes," a beaming *Mang* Leonardo said.

We thought Melanie was one of the youngest runners already, until we met one-year-old Kim Bautista. One year old?!?

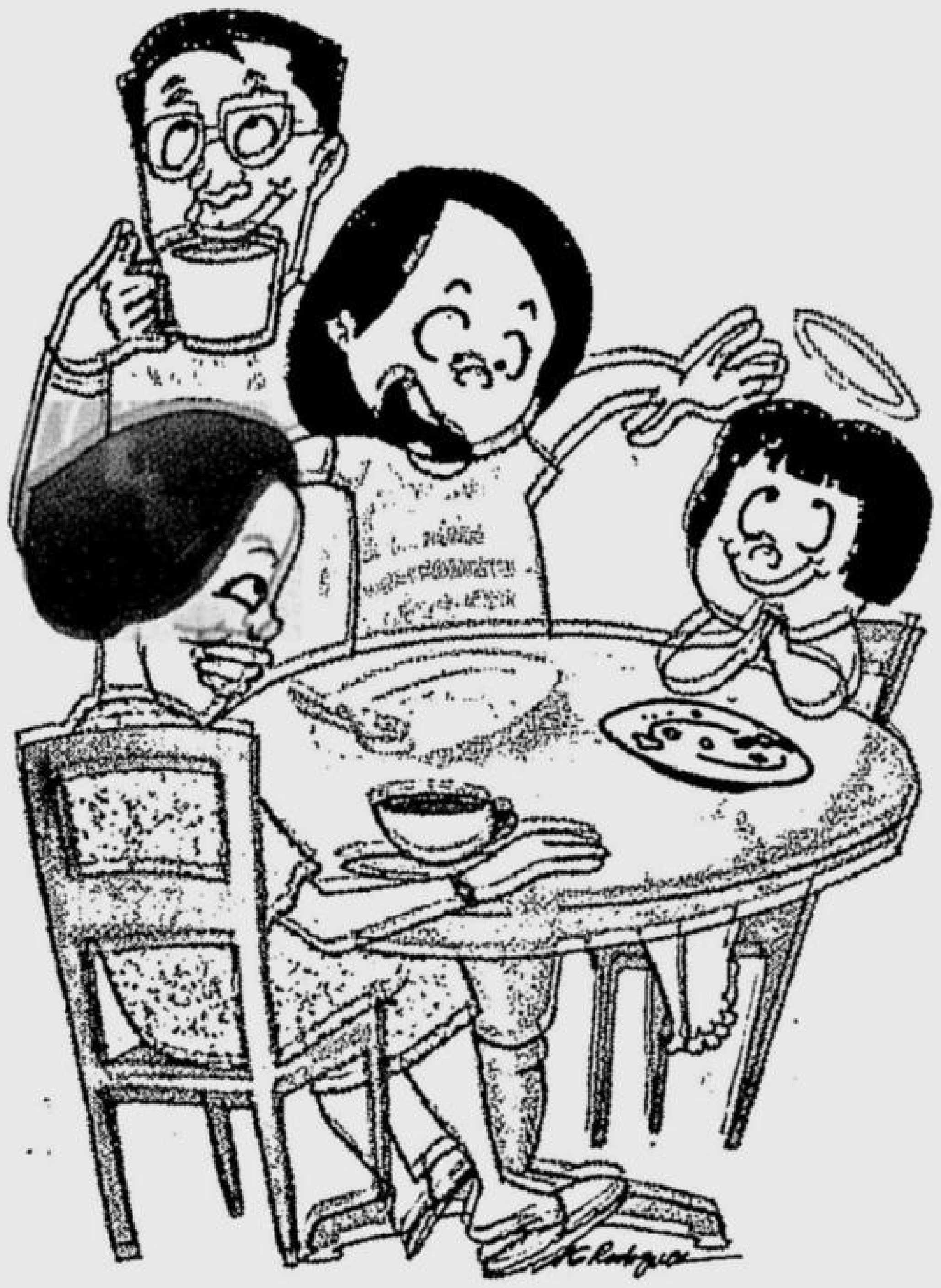
"He did very well," said his aunt, Eva Ilagan, who walked and sometimes carried Kim during the 3K race. After they crossed the

Kids/p.13



My Silly Sister

BY KATHLEEN MACROHON
MIRIAM COLLEGE GRADE SCHOOL
QUEZON CITY



ANGELICA Nicole is my little sister. She's in the first grade.

She always does her homework when she reaches the house. But she always makes a mess after.

"What a big mess!" Mom would say.

"Uh-oh, I'm in trouble!" Angelica would giggle. Mom would call *yaya* and *yaya* would clean up the mess.

One time, Angelica slipped into Dad and Mom's room to play with the computer. She didn't want to play with blocks anymore. She looked in the disc box and searched for something to play. She found "Barbie Detective 2." She played it until it was time for dinner.

After eating dinner, we took a bath, brushed our teeth, dressed in our pajamas and went to bed. The next morning, we ate bacon and eggs for breakfast. I took a piece of egg and ate the white part first. When I was about to eat the yellow part, the phone rang. I answered the phone which was in the other room. It was only a prank call, so I went back to my seat and ate again.

"Hey, where's my egg?" I asked. Angelica could not hide her giggle and soon, everyone laughed too, including me.

Oh, life with my little sister is a bit complicated but fun.

Sound Familiar ?
Write down your thoughts now and send them to JI. Who knows, you might just get published!

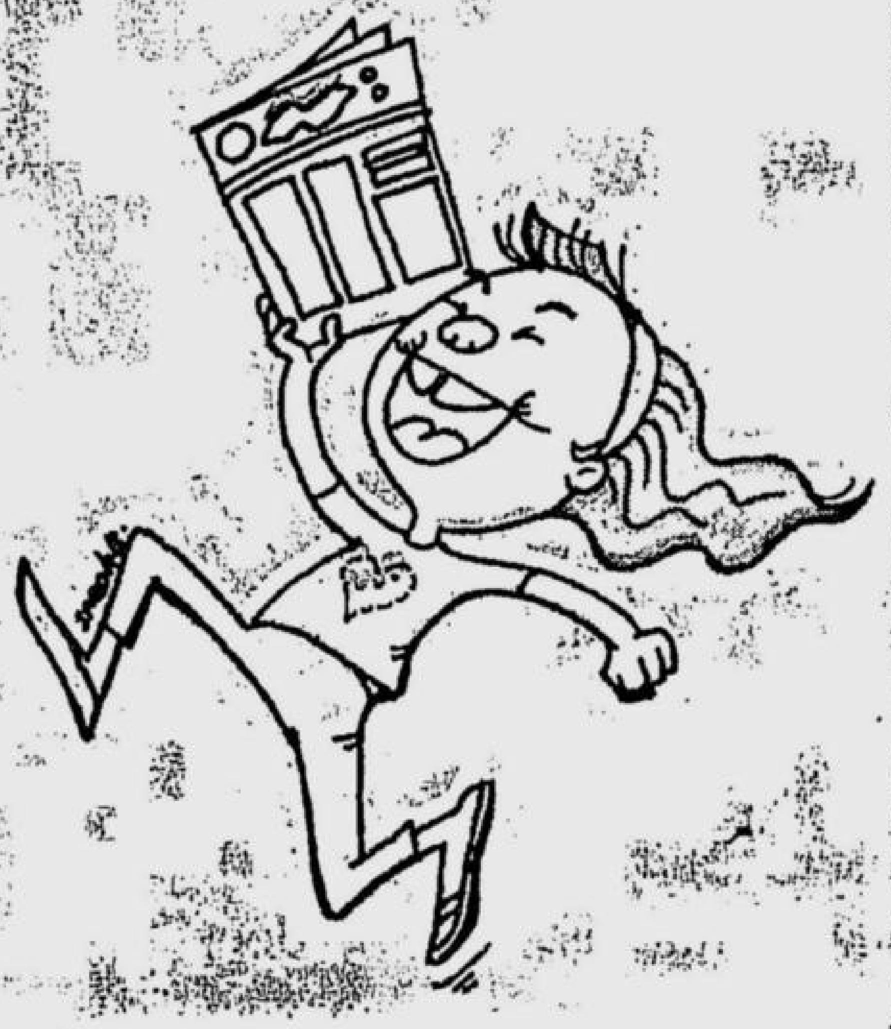
Straight from JI Readers

You can now reach us via e-mail! Our address is **ji@inquirer.com.ph** Don't forget to include your complete name, age, snail mail address and your phone number. Hope to hear from you soon!

JI Fan

DEAR Editor,

I'm an avid reader of JUNIOR INQUIRER. I really get upset when the newspaper boy forgets to bring us the Saturday edition of the Philippine Daily Inquirer where JUNIOR INQUIRER is included. JI helps me improve my writing. Reading your issues gives me innumerable ideas on how to write appealing and sensible short stories, essays and poetry. JI is not just something I read for pleasure. I learn a lot from it, too! To all the staff of JI, my immense gratitude to all of you and keep up the good work.—**AILEEN GRACE J. CONTRERAS**, Binangonan, Rizal



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A-Ok kasama sa sarap at saya. :-) :-)

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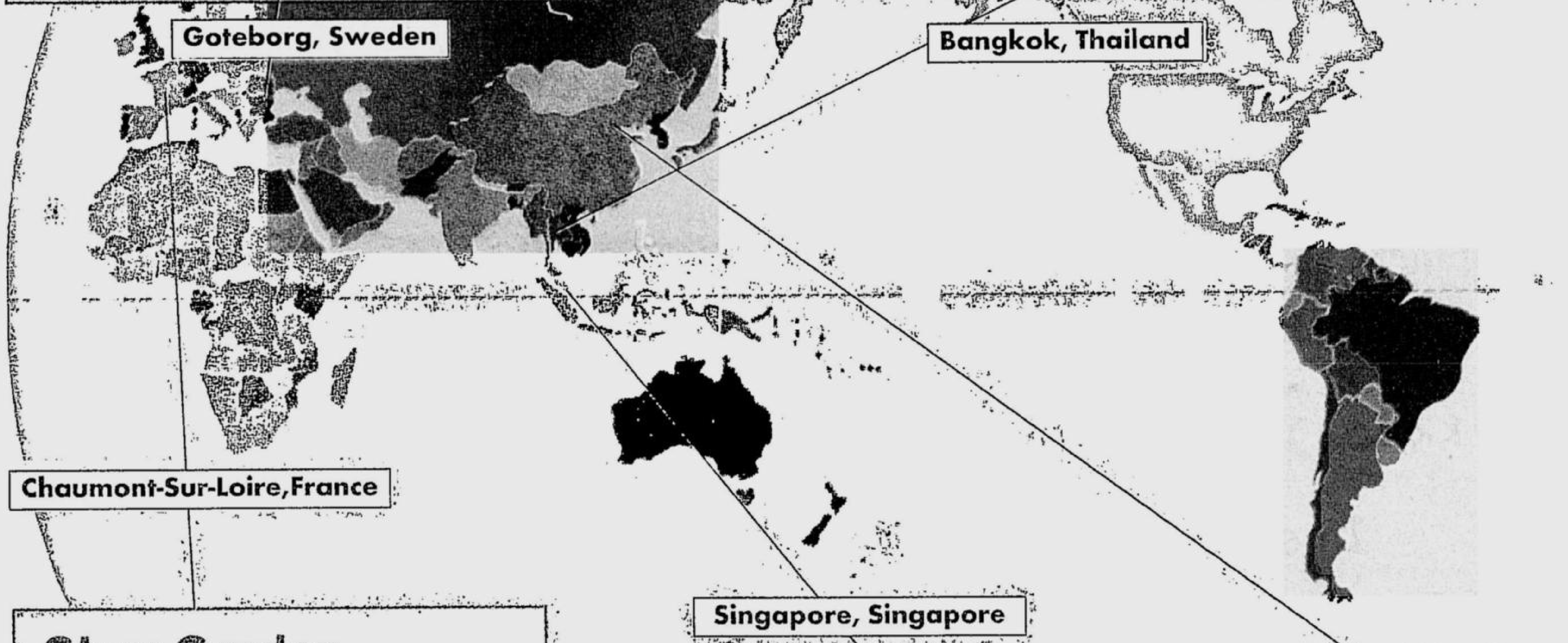
WORLD SCOPE

Caring for Yster

GROOM Helene Granath does not seem to mind Yster's horse breath. The 18-year-old police horse was slighty injured in last month's riots during the European Union summit. Yster was hit by broken bottles thrown by anti-EU activists and needed stitches in the wounds. But don't worry, he's been treated by vets and is fine now. ***AP***

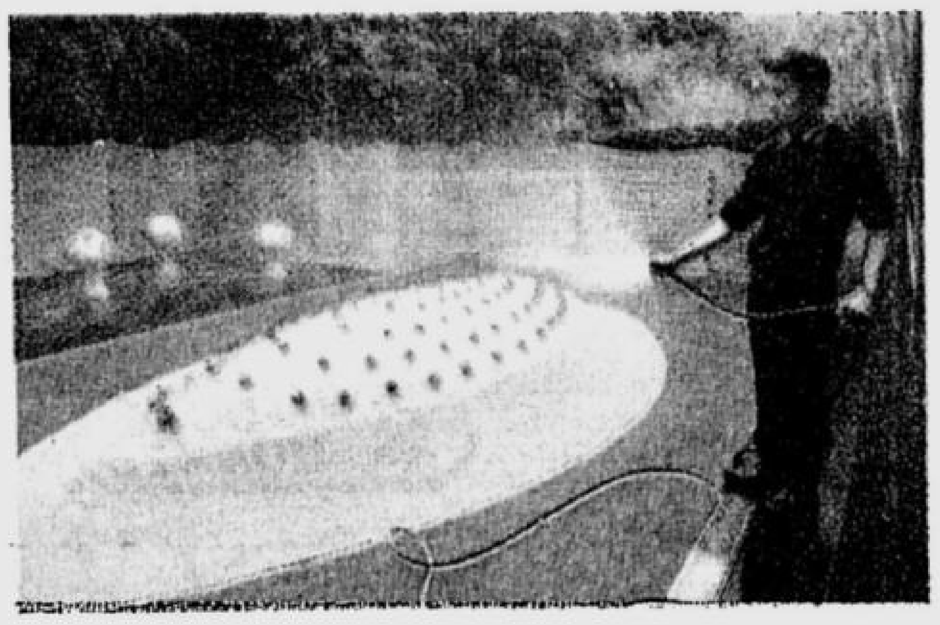
Gold for the People

THAI workers weigh gold ornaments donated by followers of a Buddhist monk, Phra Maha Bua Yanasampanno, at a temple on the outskirts of Bangkok. About 400 kilograms of gold will be forwarded to the government by Phra Maha Bua as part of his campaign to help ease the country's economy. ***AP***



Glass Garden

ANDREW Cao, a Vietnam-born Los Angeles-based landscape designer, waters his recycled glass garden he called "Desert Sea," one of the winning entries on display at the 10th International Garden Festival. Cao shipped 10 tons of recycled glass from the United States to create his garden. ***AP***

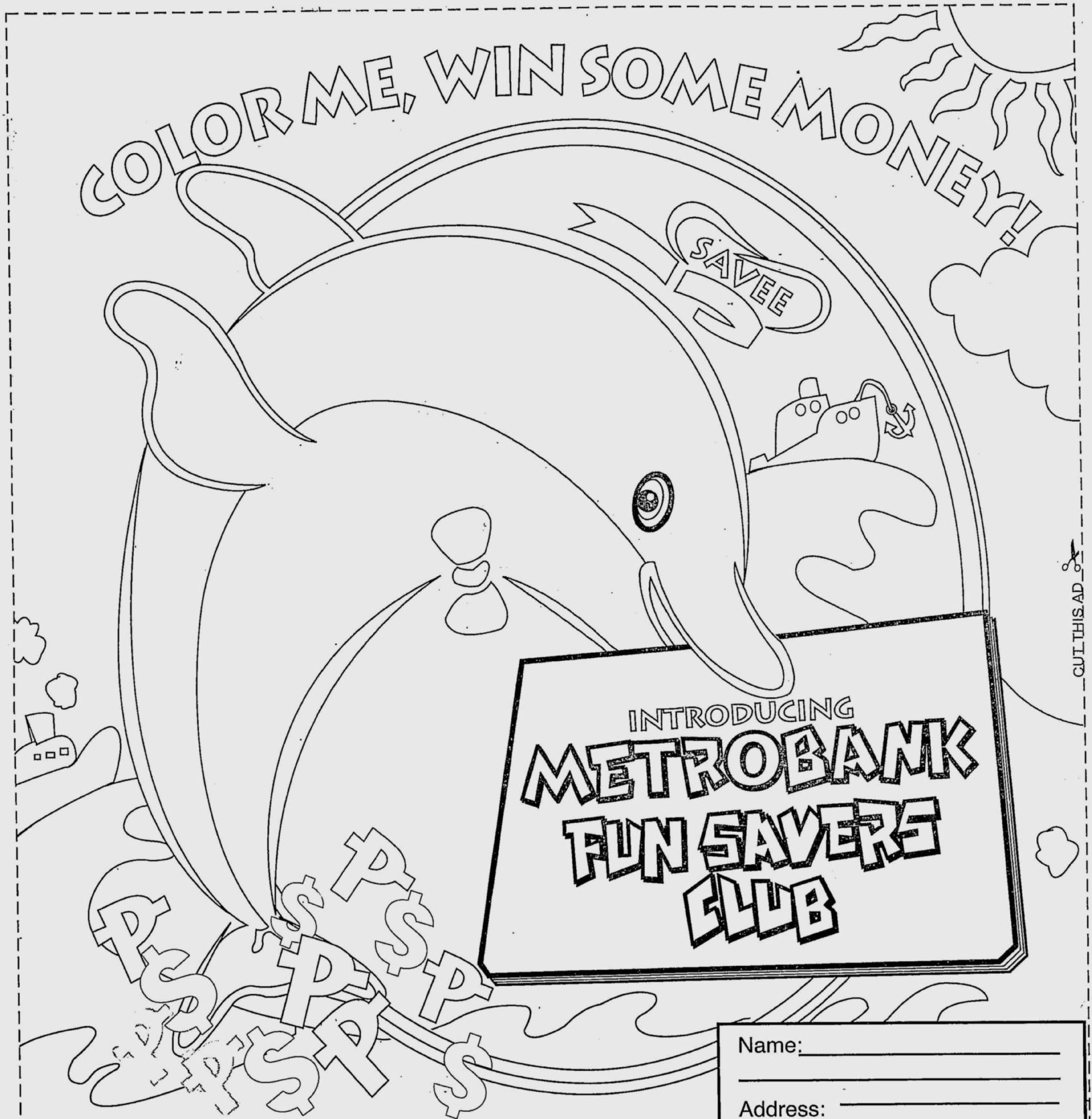


Chatpen

AN ERICSSON representative holds up the "Chatpen" at the CommunicAsia exhibition at the Singapore Expo. The pen, equipped with an infrared red camera at its writing point which takes 50 pictures a second of whatever is being scribbled down on paper, made its debut at the biggest communications and information technology trade show in the region. ***AP***

Levitating Top

A SALESPERSON demonstrates the levitation by magnetic force of a metallic top at a Beijing shop. The device is marketed as a toy that can spin in mid air above a piece of metal for as long as 200 seconds. The toy sells for 65 yuan or around P500. ***AP***



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Hey kids! If you're between 7-10 years old, you could be one of ten lucky winners of a ₱2,000.00 initial deposit and membership in the Metrobank Fun Savers Club! If you are already a member and you win, your ₱2,000.00-cash prize will be deposited to your Metrobank Fun Savers Club account. It's so easy to join! Just color Savee the dolphin blue, his tummy white and color the rest of the ad any way you want, then send your entries to: "Color Me" Contest, PRMD, 11th floor, Metrobank Plaza, Sen. Gil Puyat Ave., Makati City. Send as many entries as you want on or before August 15, 2001! So what are you waiting for? Get your crayons, craypas and colored pencils and start coloring this ad now!

NOTE: *Only original ads are considered as valid entries. Photocopies will be disqualified.

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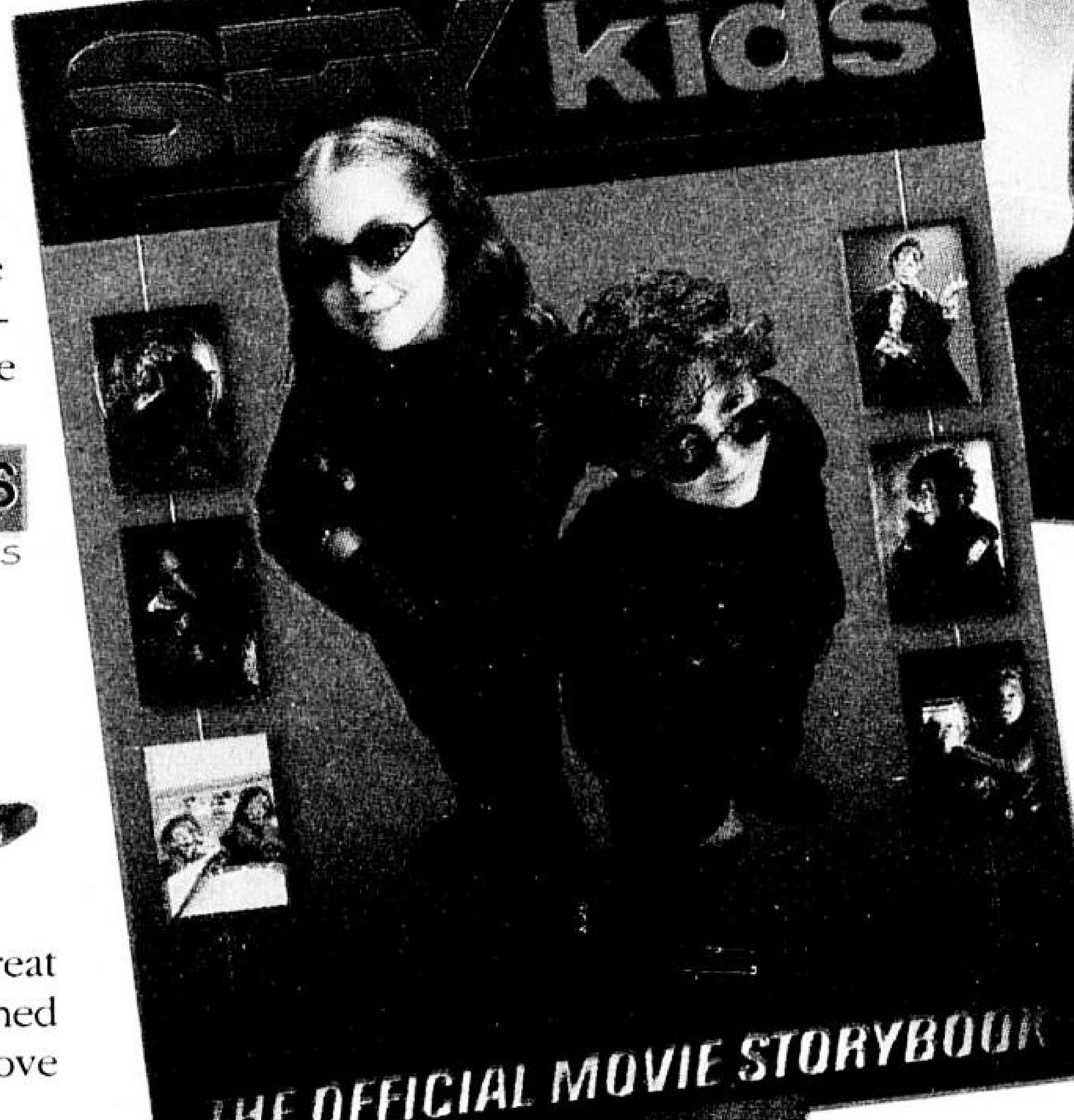
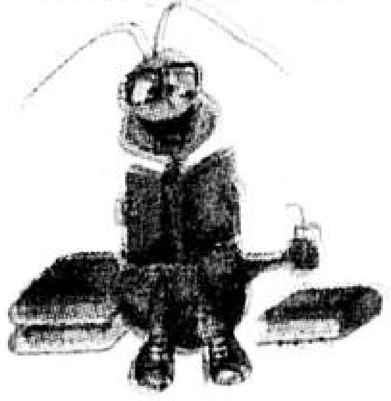
What a spy-tingling story!



WHEN you first meet the Cortez children in the novel "SPY kids" and witness the bossy Carmen taunt her younger 8- year-old brother Juni, they seem to be like any other sister and brother. Even they think the same of themselves. They have no suspicions regarding the fact that their parents sure are mighty interested in the sister and brother's gym and karate training.

Iggy Ipis
BOOK REVIEWS



They don't think it unusual that they have their own workout and training room in the middle of their home, and that their own father trains them. They don't bother to ask why their mother has told them the same story night after night, about a great woman spy and a great man spy, both assigned to get rid of the other, but both falling in love with the other instead.

When they realize that this bedtime story is actually the real story of their mom and dad, they almost can't believe it. But the proof is all there, the RED ALERT on their microwave, the opening bookshelf, the pod waiting at the end of a tunnel to take them to a safehouse because they are no longer safe.

Their parents, whom they thought were normal and boring, were captured by a weird man named Floop, and it's up to Carmen and Juni to save the day. Even as they try to learn to be spies and find their parents, Floop's henchmen (the traitor spies, the Thumb-Thumbs, the robot kids) go after them, and they zoom from one danger to the next.

I almost couldn't breathe while reading the book! It must have been the same experience as watching the movie of the same title, but now I don't even have the scary music to warn me of the coming danger. I read and then suddenly I'm in the middle of it all! And then I cheer Carmen and Juni on, even as I feel so helpless for them because they are so small compared to their enemies, who are well-trained and evil.

SPY kids
HOW TO BE A SPY
ACTIVITY BOOK
•PUZZLES
•MAZES
•WORD SEARCHES
•SPY KITS
•DISGUISES
•AND MORE!
Based on the
motion pictures

Floop makes me cower when he turns good spies into dumb and scary-looking Fooglies. I want to hide when I read of the seemingly innocent children, who look like the kids of world leaders, but are actually evil robots trained to maim and kill. Yet I feel strengthened when I read about the Cortez family. It's their love for one another that make them all such winners. My favorite is Juni because he is such a gentle soul, and clumsy at the beginning, but he takes charge and starts to believe in himself, and so overcomes his fears. He's quite the best spy.

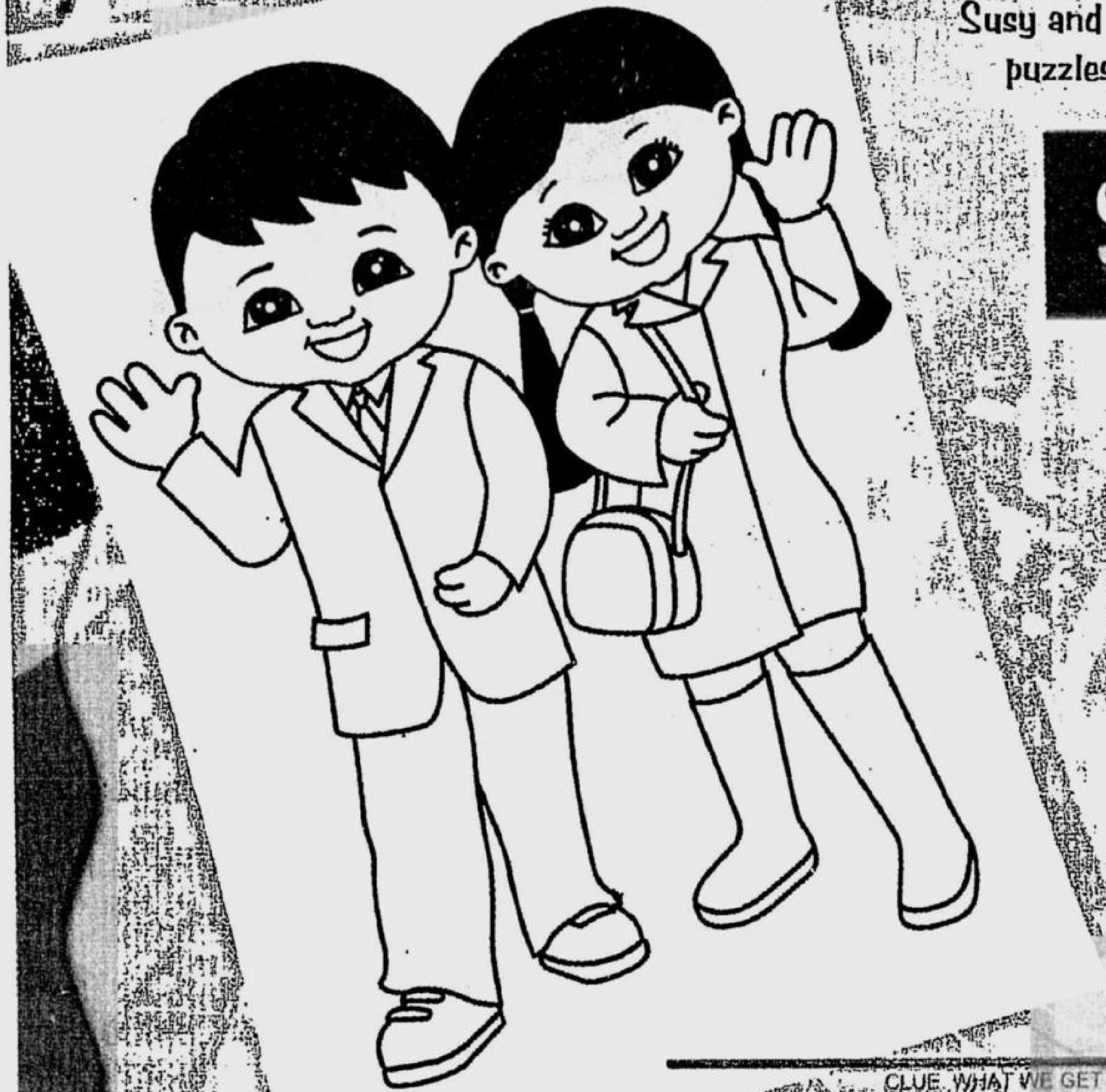
The "SPY kids Official Movie Storybook" provides a quick introduction and summary of Carmen and Juni's adventures, with lots of glossy, interesting pictures taken from the movie. The novel "SPY kids" describes the adventures in greater, more breath-taking detail. Finally, for kids who want to become spies themselves, there's the "SPY kids: HOW TO BE A SPY Activity Book," with puzzles, mazes, brain teasers and games, as well as tips on how to be a good spy, and how to make spy weapons and gadgets. You could keep the Activity Book with all your other well-kept secrets, if you don't want your cover blown, or you could secretly consult it with your dearest, closest friends.

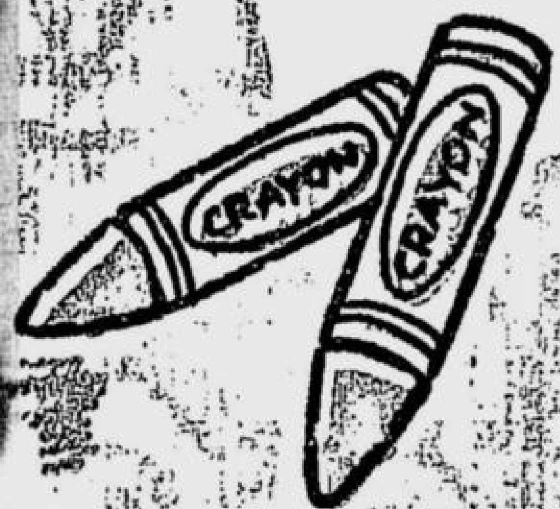
"SPY kids" (the novel based on the motion picture), "SPY kids: The Official Movie Storybook," and "SPY kids: HOW TO BE A SPY Activity Book," are publisahed by Hyperion Books for Children, 2001, and are available at any branch of National Bookstore.

ACTIVITY 1

SUSY-AND-GENO COLORING PAGE

Color Susy and Geno with your crayons!




CRAYON
CRAYON

Susy Geno

ACTIVITY PAGE

Susy and Geno are serving up another page-full of fun, games, puzzles and brain teasers for you to figure out and enjoy!

SUSTAGEN®

ACTIVITY 2

WORD JAM

Unscramble the words below. They are terms associated with Susy and Geno.

CLUE: THE FLAVOR OF SUSTAGEN
TOOL CHACE

CLUE: WE ____ SUSTAGEN
KID R N

CLUE: HEALTHY NUTRIENTS WE GET FROM FRUITS
MINT VISA

CLUE: WHAT WE GET FROM SUSTAGEN
U TINT IRON

CLUE: SUSY AND GENO ARE THE SUSTAGEN ____
TO SCAM

ANSWERS: (1) Chocolate (2) Drink (3) Vitamins (4) Nutrition (5) Mascot

FOR TODDLERS 1 - 5 YEARS
FOR KIDS 6 YEARS & UP
SUSTAGEN
SUSTAGEN

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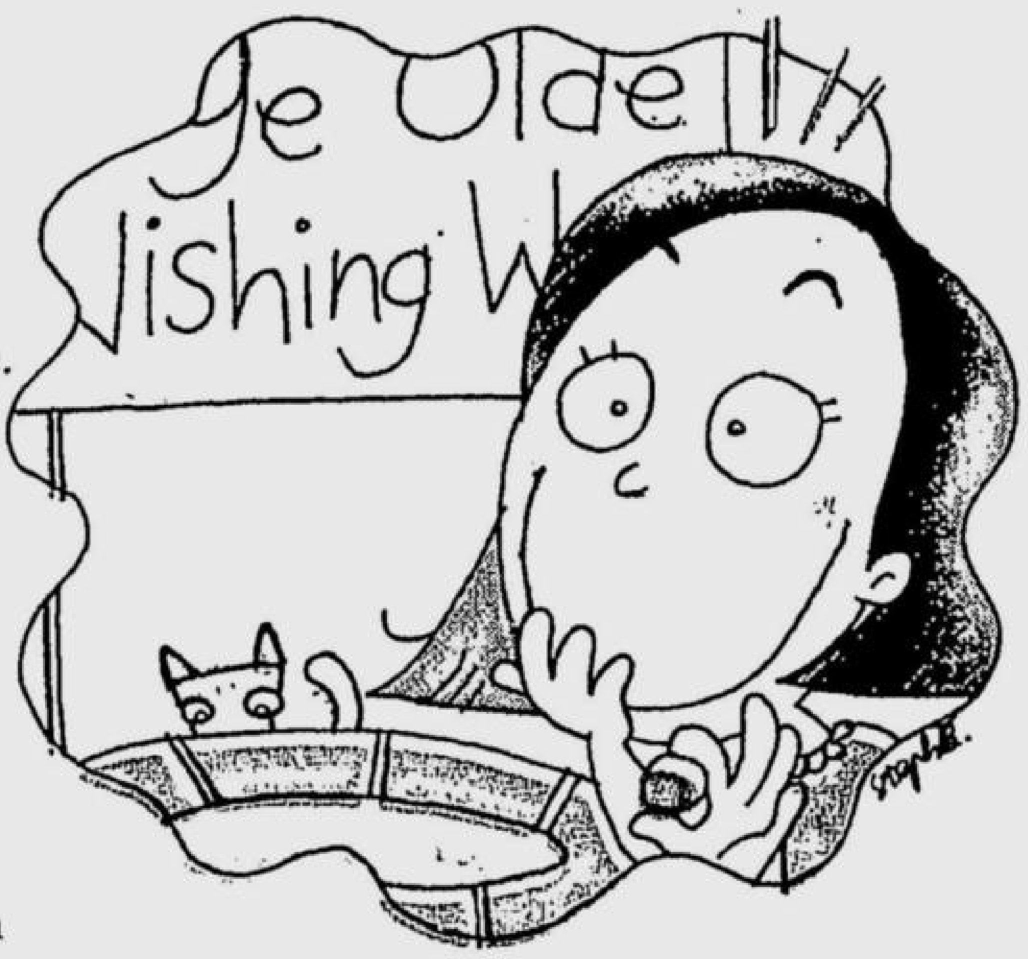
where good health begins.

The Girl Who Wished to

BY GERMAINE YIA
ILLUSTRATIONS BY STEPH BRAVO



Once there was a wishing well,
that could make all wishes come true.
A sign for wishing wishers
said this they had to do:

"Find a purple pebble
to throw into the well,
Make your wish as it falls
to summon the wishing spell."

"Be careful what you choose to wish
for it might just come true.
Don't blame this well for wishes
that will backfire on you."

A little girl named Mila
chanced upon the well.
She threw a purple pebble
and wished as it fell.

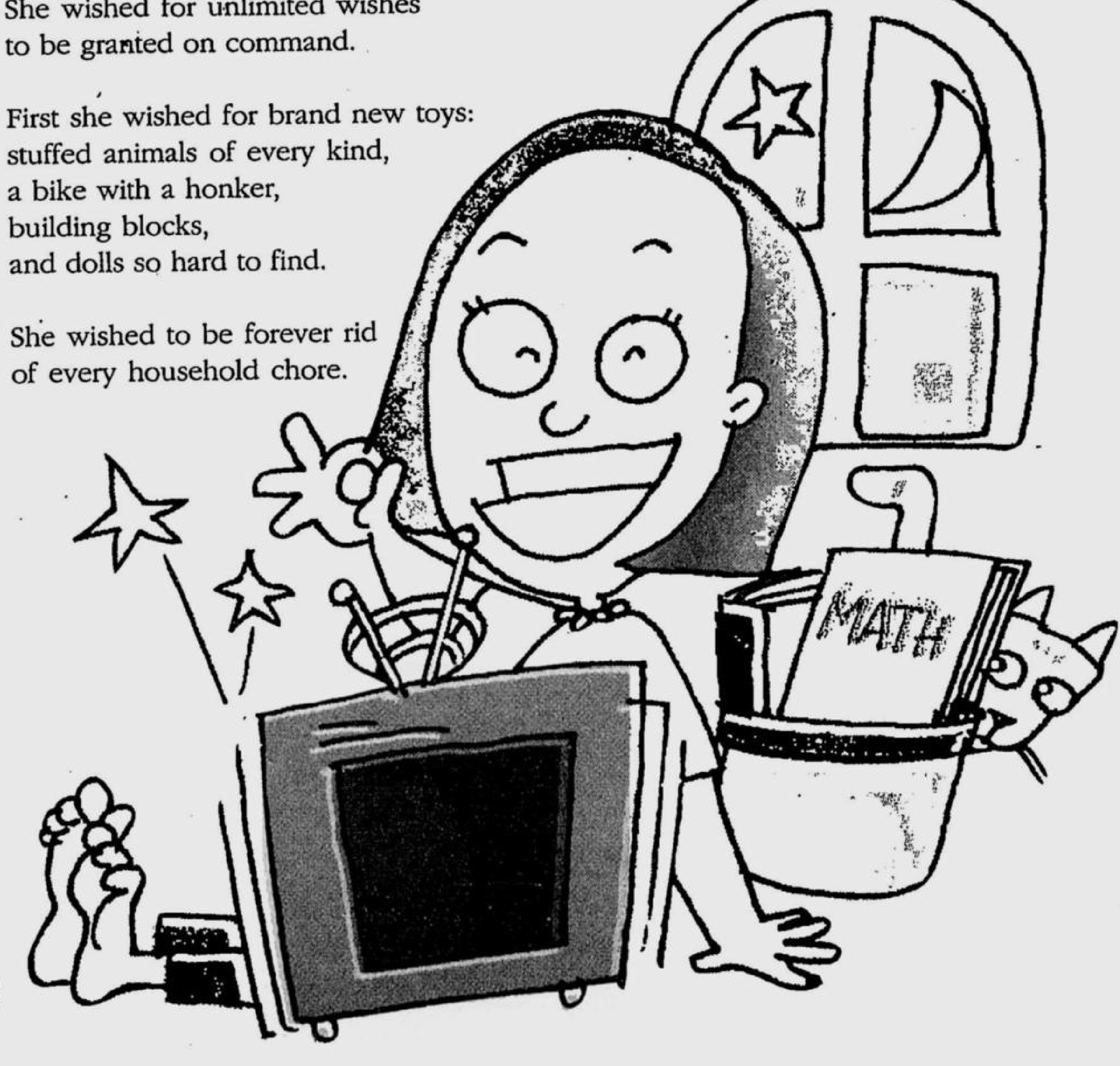
Her wish was unlike other wishes,
for what she wished was grand.
She wished for unlimited wishes
to be granted on command.

First she wished for brand new toys:
stuffed animals of every kind,
a bike with a honker,
building blocks,
and dolls so hard to find.

She wished to be forever rid
of every household chore.

Washing, scrubbing,
wiping and sweeping,
she wished to do no more.

She wished she didn't have to go
to school every day.
No homework, tests,
and books to read.
Oodles of time to play.



She wished she had no curfew,
that she could stay up all night.
Watching endless TV shows
to her was a delight.

When little Mila came home one day,
she smiled because she knew.
Before her eyes the wishes she wished
Were magically coming true.

Her house was cramped and flooded
with toys of every kind:
stuffed animals, a bike, building blocks,
and dolls so hard to find.

She played and played and played with them,
without the bother of a single chore.
But as hours ticked, playing alone
was becoming one big bore.

She headed out to find her friends
but they were in school that day.
Seeing her they shook their heads.
They couldn't come out and play.

Pouting with her head down low,
Mila went back home.
The lights were out, no food was cooked,
she was all alone.

A note said *Nay* and *Tay*
were working
very, late that day.
From now on they'd have
to work and work,
for there were bills to pay.

The expensive toys
she wished for,
they did not come free.
Her parents had
to work harder,
just to pay the fee.

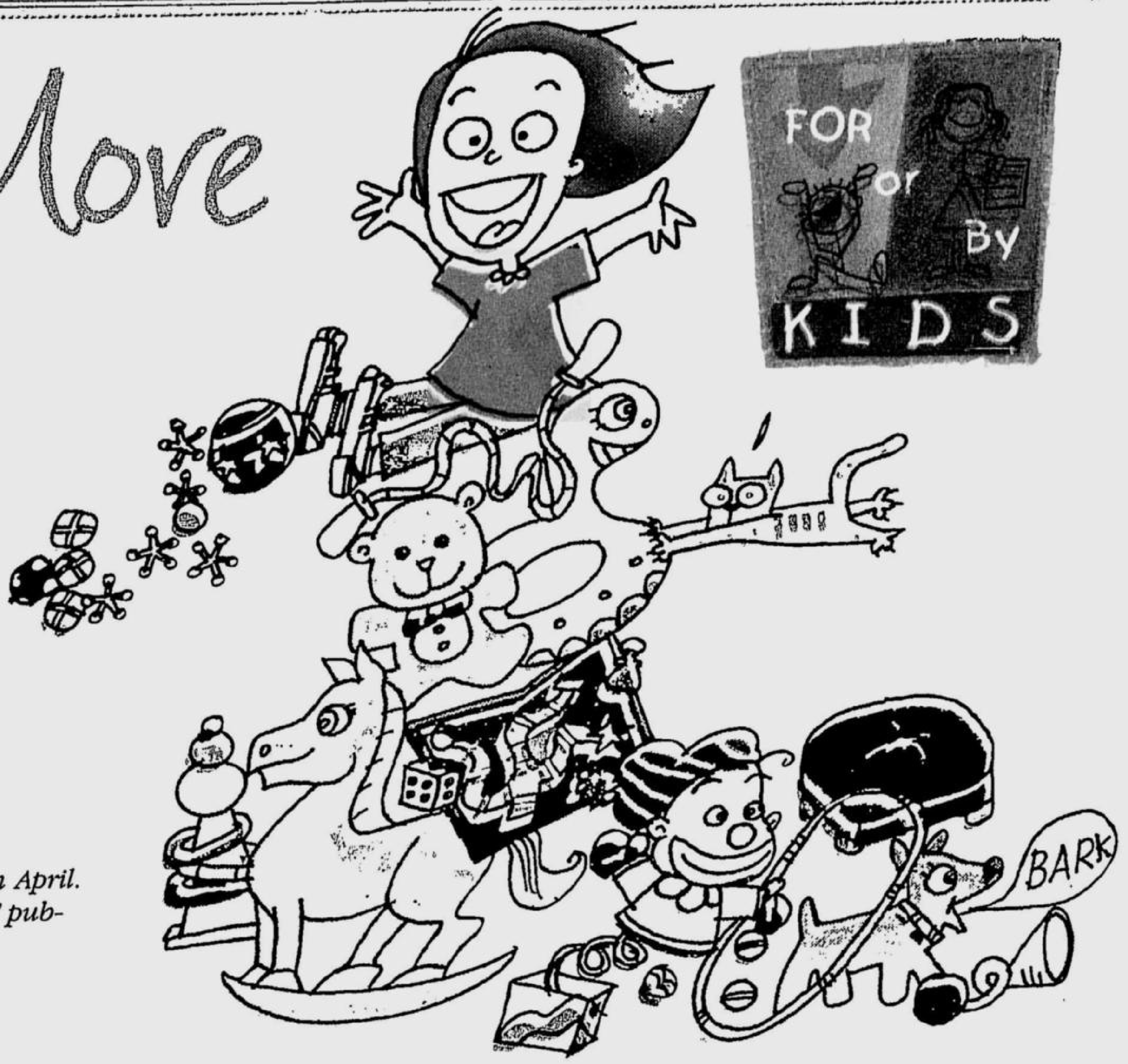
With an empty stomach
she wished no more.
She was scared
to pay the price.
Watching TV
was the only thing
for Mila that seemed nice.

Wish No More

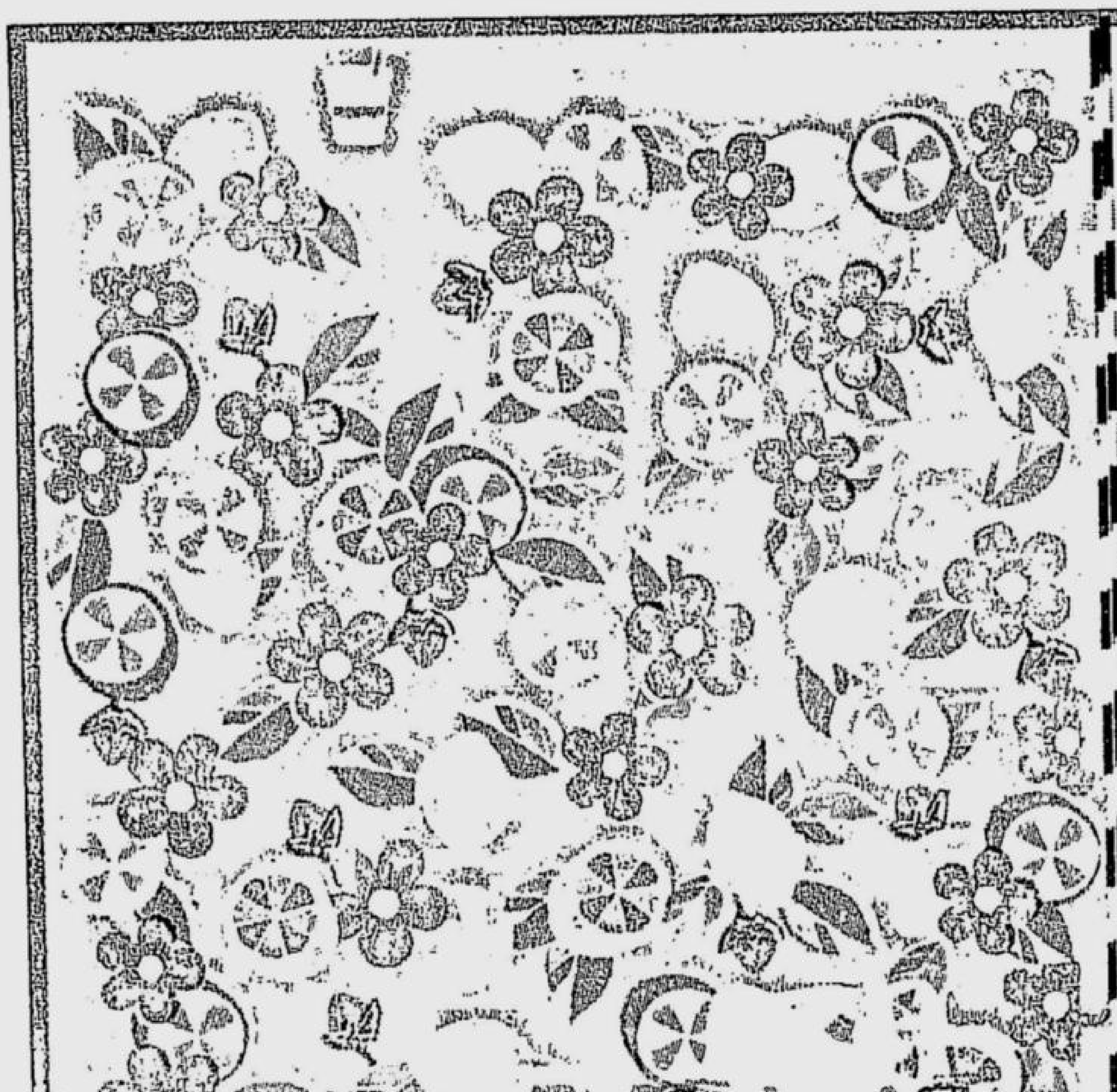
Now she had no curfew.
So stayed up all night.
But watching endless TV shows
was really no delight.

With her eyes sore from watching,
and with her stomach grumbling, she knew.
Unwishing her wishes was the only thing
The only right thing to do.

So Mila wished to unwish,
all the wishes she wished for.
When all was done her one last wish
was a wish to wish no more.



***Gigi** graduated from the UP School of Economics on April. She is the author of the story "Nasaan si Kuya Emil?" published by Adarna Books.*
***Steph** is JI's staff artist.*



Help Hello Kitty find her way back through the maze so she can finish making her Hello Kitty Cafe Pink Lemonade!

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Tel. No.:________________ School: ______________
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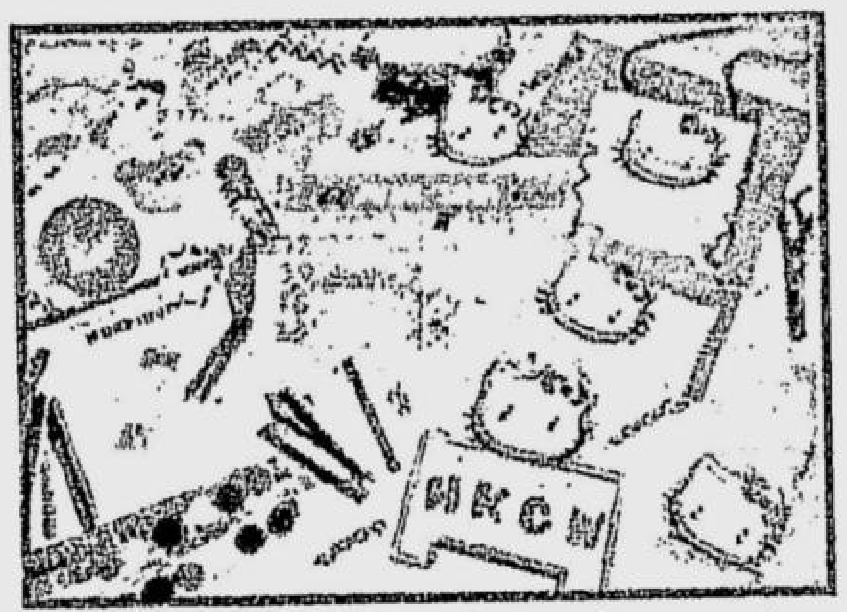

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7	HELLO KITTY CLOTH MOBILE
8	HELLO KITTY FRIENDSHIP BAND
14	HELLO KITTY PUZZLE WALL DECOR
15	HELLO KITTY PICTURE FRAME
21	HELLO KITTY PENCIL CASE
22	HELLO KITTY SHOULDER BAG
28	HELLO KITTY FLOWER POT
29	HELLO KITTY FUN FOAM MOBILE

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2. Cut along the dotted line.
3. Mail entries to: HELLO KITTY LEMONMAZE CONTEST
Kitty Cafe Philippines, Inc.
G/F Gift Gate Bldg.
Greenhills Shopping Center, San Juan, MM
4. One hundred (100) winners will be drawn on August 6, 2001, 4:00 pm at Hello Kitty Cafe Megamall.

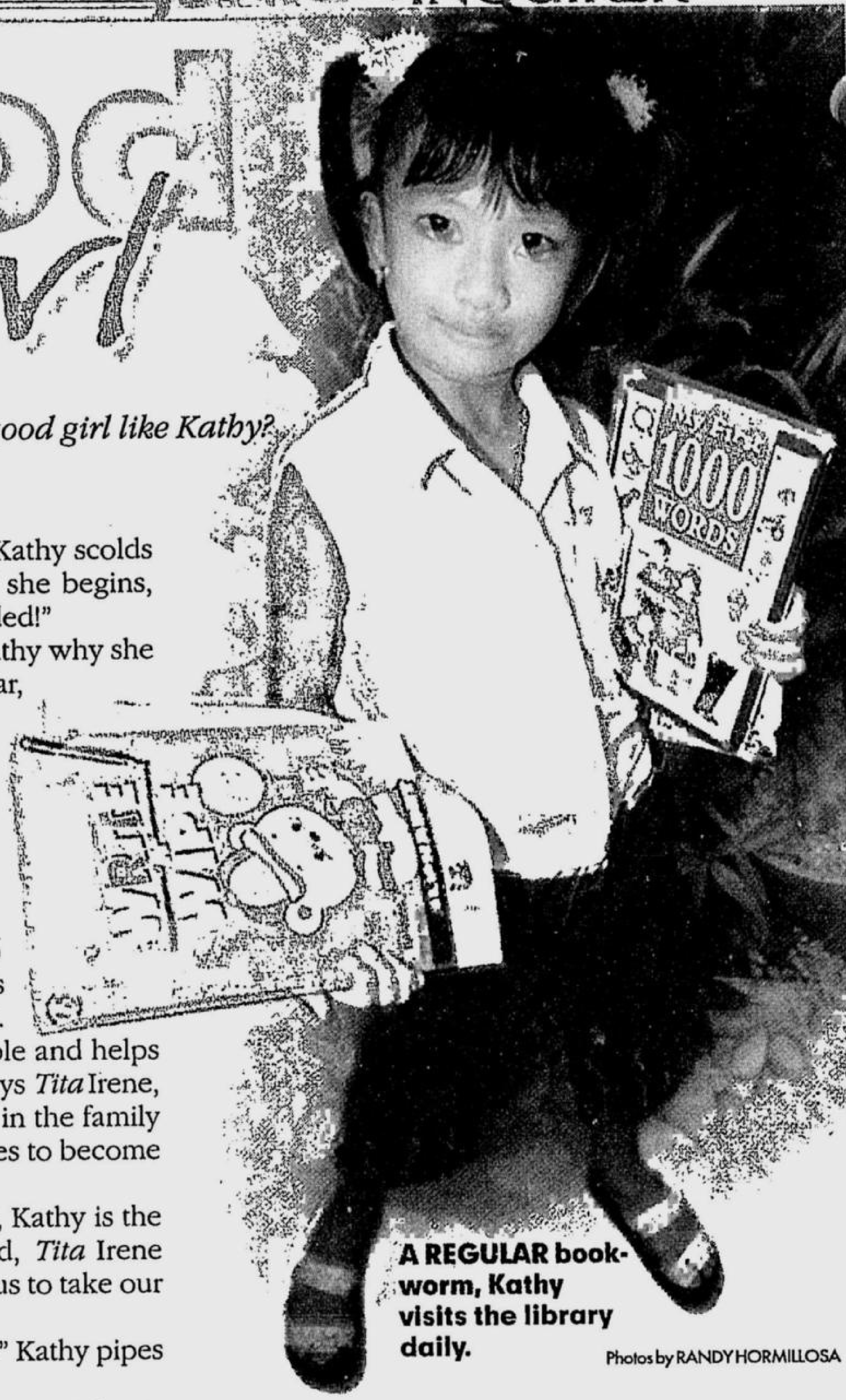
Promo period is from July 7-28, 2001.
See posters for more details.

Per DTI-NCR Permit No. A-3-337 Series of 2001

Good Girl

Can there really be a 100-percent good girl like Kathy?

BY CHRISTINE C. RIVERO



A REGULAR bookworm, Kathy visits the library daily.

Photos by RANDY HORMILLOSA

SITTING across the table from us, Kathy scolds us. "Kids should always behave well," she begins, "because if they don't. . .they'll be scolded!"

Whoops. You see, we kept asking Kathy why she bothers to help other people. Like last year, for instance, when she helped a neighbor learn how to read. When we asked her why, Kathy looked at us puzzled and replied, "Because she doesn't know how." She sounded like we should have known the answer all along.

People-n-pet lover

Kathy or Karen Leigh Riparip is 6 years old and her mom, Irene, says she's always been a helpful kind-hearted kid.

"She sweeps the garden, sets the table and helps with chores even without being told," says *Tita* Irene, "maybe it's because she sees everyone in the family has their own responsibilities so she tries to become responsible too."

When someone in the family is sick, Kathy is the first to give the patient a massage and, *Tita* Irene adds, "She's also the one who reminds us to take our medicine!"

"That's why I'm going to be a doctor!" Kathy pipes up.

Pets get a lot of TLC from Kathy too. "This is Mimingkay and this is Mimingkoy," Kathy tells us as she plops a couple of cats on the table. Kathy feeds the cats herself and stresses that they should only eat fish meat, not the spines.

"They can't eat the spines because they'll throw up," she points out. So what she does is pick the meat from the fish herself before feeding the cats. The fish, of course, is from her own share of the family dinner.

KATHY finishes her homework before watching TV.

Homework helper

Now a first-grader at La Consolacion College in Manila, Kathy is the one classmates turn to for help with homework or to copy notes from after being absent.

Kathy gives us a sample lesson. "Look at the shapes, the square has one, two, three, four. . ." she says, drawing the four sides of the square in the air.

"And when you color (the shapes), you should color inside the lines," she continues.

Kathy loves to read and visits her school library almost every day. When she gets home, she does her homework first before watching TV. When we ask her why, she gives us another you-really-ought-to-know-why look. Sighing, she very patiently explains to us, "You should do your homework first because you might forget to do it before going to school!"

Her house is built right beside a church so every day, Kathy literally hears the Mass being said. This time we ask her, is that why you're such a good girl, because you live so close to church? To that, Kathy's answer is a small knowing smile.

R U 'RRIFIC?

'Rrific kids are smart
'Rrific kids are fun
Some aren't in the honors list
But get their homework done

Somehow the world's
a better place
I know this much is true
Hey 'Rrific kid!
We know you're there
We love you 'cause you're you!

If you think you're `Rriffic' or know someone who is, fill out the nomination form below and send it to:

Junior Inquirer
'KIDS'R'RRIFIC' Page
Phil. Daily Inquirer, Chino Roces cor.
Yague & Mascardo Sts.
1231 Makati City

Chosen nominees will be featured on this page and will get a free **Junior Inquirer T-shirt!**

Kids'r'rrific

nomination form

I nominate: ______________________

Age: ________

I think she's/he's 'Rrific because:
(Here's a tip! Write a detailed description of a good deed, project or accomplishment by your nominee.)

She/he lives at

and studies at

Her/his contact number is:

Sender's Name:

Sender's Age & School:

Sender's Address:

Sender's Contact No.

Grandpa's Gotta Drive

At 68, racing champ Pocholo Ramirez is still into the need for speed

AS A YOUNG boy, Jose "Pocholo" Ramirez wanted to become a pilot. The fascination for speed was already there, he muses. Then after World War 2, at the age of 13, *Tito* Poch learned how to drive. His vehicle—a United States weapons carrier. (Think of it as a big truck.)

"It was the Liberation," *Tito* Poch laughs, "you could do anything!"

Years later, *Tito* Poch would become a champion racecar driver.

Go, go, go!

"When I went to the States, I got into watching (car) races. That now evolved into wanting to race," *Tito* Poch relates. So at the age of 30, he started go-karting. That's a kind of race using a small cart powered by a lawn-mower motor. From there he went on to bigger cars and faster races. "I just liked it," says *Tito* Poch, "I enjoyed it and I'm still enjoying it. That's why I'm still racing."

Yep, although he's now 68 years old—and a grandfather to 11 grandkids to boot!—*Tito* Poch, a member of the Petron/SRA racing team, is still revving car engines and speeding to the finish line. He continues to win awards too, including last year's Petron XCS Driver of the Year Award.

"Part of it is basically overcoming fear," *Tito* Poch says of the thrill of racing, "when someone says they don't have fear, that's baloney. Everybody has fear."

He points out, though, that it's also all about control. "You have to control the car," he says, "to learn how to reach the limit without going over the limit. It's about self-control too."

Racing sons

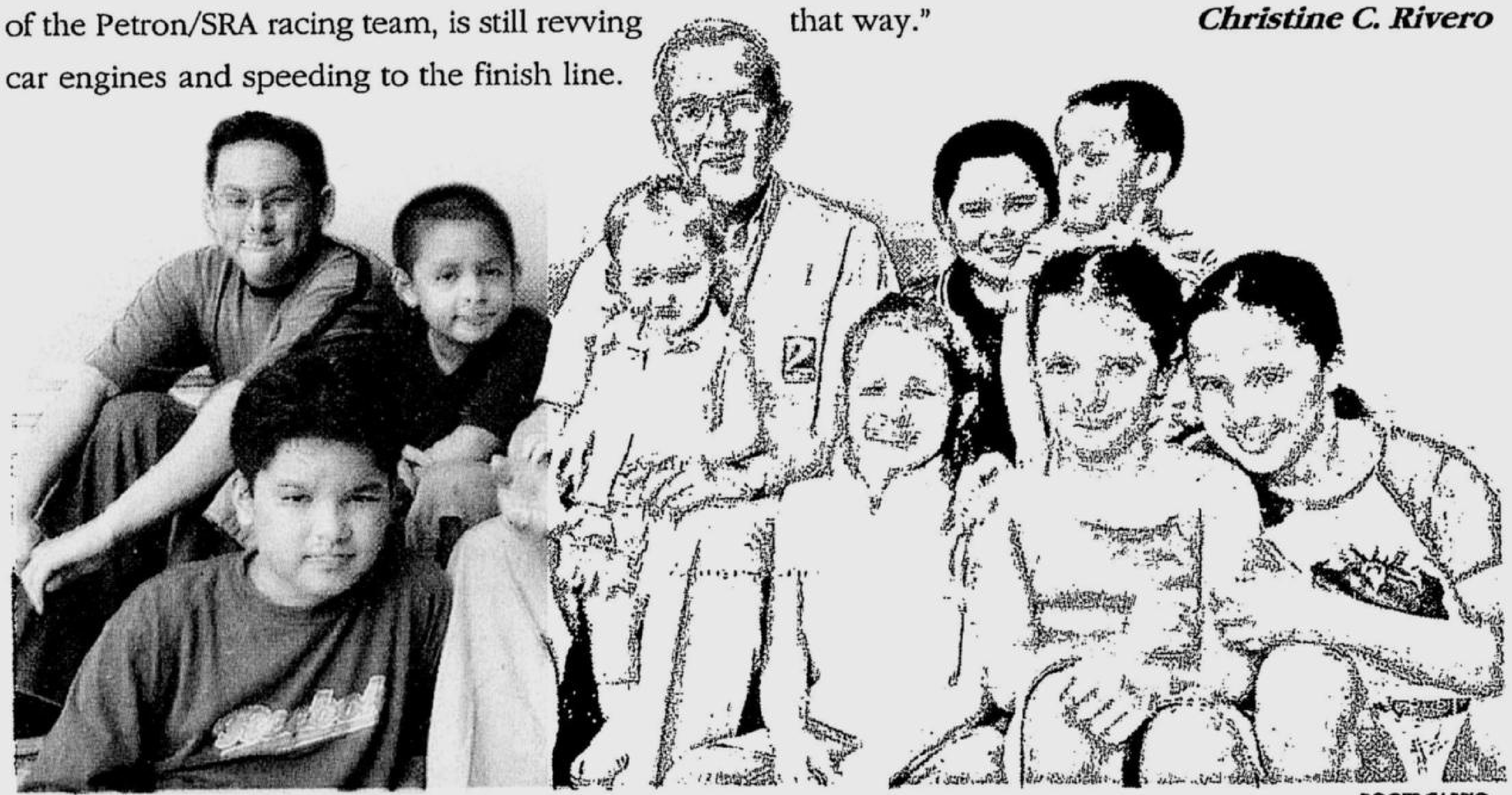
Tito Poch's racing-rage must have rubbed off on all of his four sons because they're also champion racers and some of their wives race too!

"I never pushed anyone to do it, but I guess they got it by osmosis!" chuckles *Tito* Poch.

Safety, *Tito* Poch stresses, is the first thing anyone who wants to race should keep in mind. "Get into it properly," he says, "avoid racing in the streets. Do it in the proper environment where it is controlled, where you have a race track."

He adds, "It's safer and you get into less trouble that way."

Christine C. Rivero



ROGER CARPIO

COOL GRANDPA Pocholo hangs out with the kids.

Do you know a grown-up who

- is fun to be with
- has an exciting job
- keeps an amazing hobby
- is all of the above???

If you know a grown-up whom all kids will love, give him or her the stamp:

A.K.A. COOL

Just fill out the nomination form below and tell us why your fave grown-up is the absolute coolest. If your nominee is chosen, ***YOU'LL*** *get a free JI T-shirt! Now that's really cool.*

A.K.A. COOL
is an 'adult known as cool'
They're the folks
in our own family
Or the people
we meet in school.

I nominate

_____________________.

He/She is ____ years old and is my

_____________________________.

Here are five super solid reasons why I think you should write about him/her:

1)____________________________;

2)____________________________;

3)____________________________;

4)____________________________;

and

5)____________________________.

My nominee lives at

____

______________________________.

Give him/her a call at

____

or send him/her an e-mail at

______________________________.

By the way,

I'm___________________________.

I'm ______ years old.

My address is

______________________________.

You may call me at

Workshops

ART STROKES. Learn to paint using charcoal pencils, oil pastels, watercolor, oil, pen and ink and mixed media, join "Art Strokes." For more important info call up Ms Eleanor at 740-7221 from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

TAEKWONDO. Taekwondo is not just for self-defense, it also teaches self-discipline, as well as respect for others. Goodwill Bookstore's activity center offers Taekwondo classes under RP team member and 1999 Sea Games bronze medallist Dindo Simpao.

Sessions are held every Sunday at 3:30 p.m. at the Basement Level, Goodwill Bookstore, Glorietta 3, Ayala Center, Makati City. For more info call up 813-4956 to 57, 893-9079.

Stuff

GEOGRAPHIC'S BEST PHOTOS. For the first time in its 113-year history, National Geographic magazine will publish a special collector's issue titled "100 Best Photographs of All Time." The book will be available in newsstands early next year.

On TV

PAHINA'S NEW SEASON. Check out ABS-CBN's "Pahina." Today at 9:30 a.m. Balt, played by young star Carlo Aquino, will run for student council's vice president, but he is faced with a more popular candidate. Though it seems Balt is facing defeat, he discovers the modern poem "Ang Guryon" by Ildefonso Santos. Find out how the poem will affect Balt. "Pahina" premieres today at 9:30 p.m. on ABS-CBN channel 2.

OUT THERE
By Mariel D. Salazar

Got something for Out There?
Send us the info two weeks in advance. Our fax numbers are 897-4793 up to 94. Don't forget to include your contact numbers and addresses.

Museum Moments

AYALA GOES TO THE FIESTA. Everyone is invited to chow down on Filipino snacks, play and win prizes in traditional Filipino games, participate in made-for-families art activities, and view a number of Ayala Museum's Filipiniana dolls. Whoever shows up in the best Filipiniana outfit wins a prize.. Festivities begin at 9:20 a.m. at the Ayala Museum, Makati Avenue, Makati City.

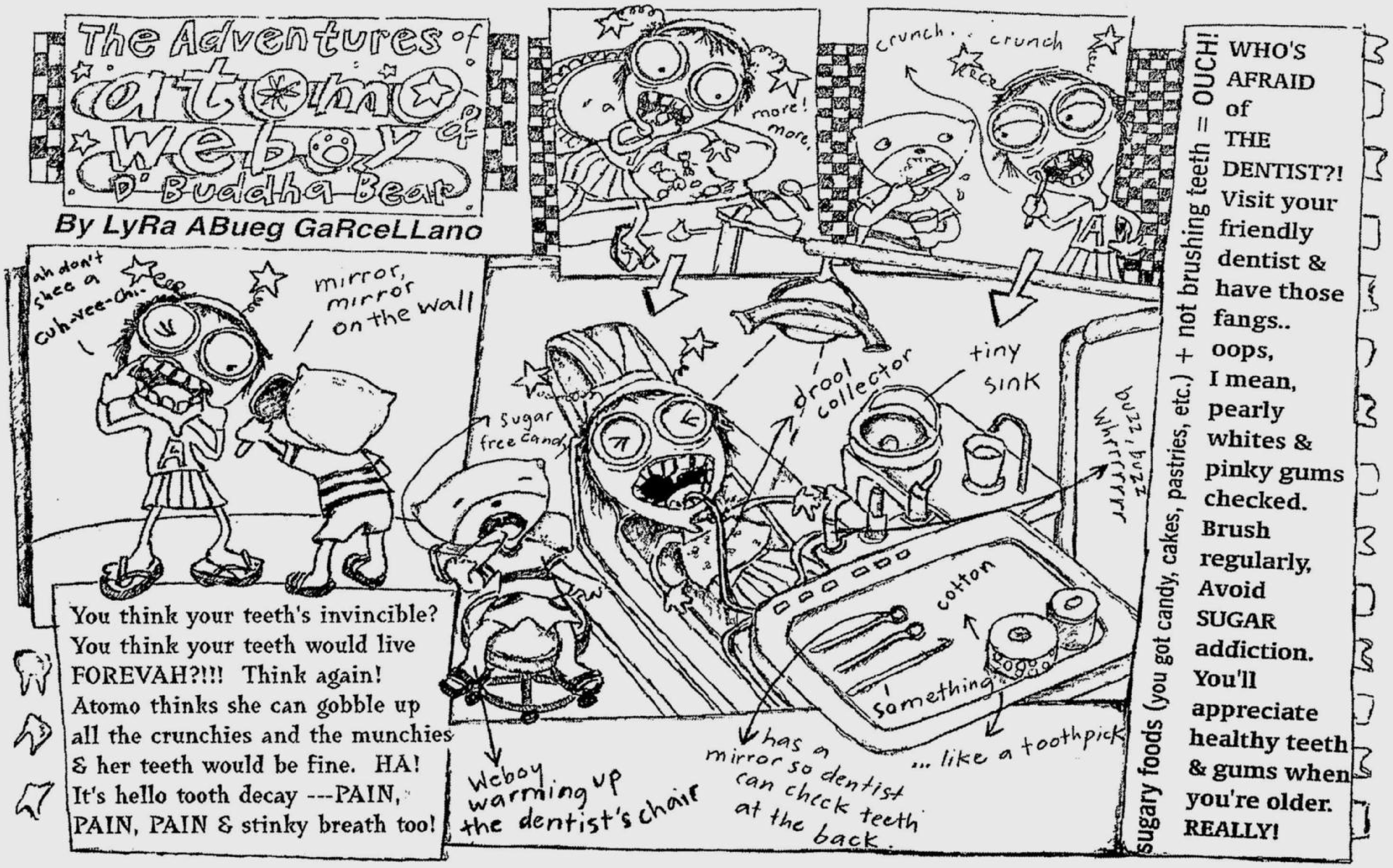
Cable Picks

FRIENDLY COURAGE. "Courage the Cowardly Dog" is a half-hour series that chronicles the life of an incredibly timid dog named Courage who must regularly defend his owners from paranormal elements that threaten their simple existence.

In its new episode "The Hunchback from Nowhere" a hunchback knocks at the farmhouse door on a rainy night. The farmer turns him away but Courage discovers Hunchy in the hayloft. Much to the farmer's disgust, Courage befriends the hunchback. Don't miss "Courage the Cowardly Dog" on Tuesday at 5:30 p.m. on Cartoon Network.

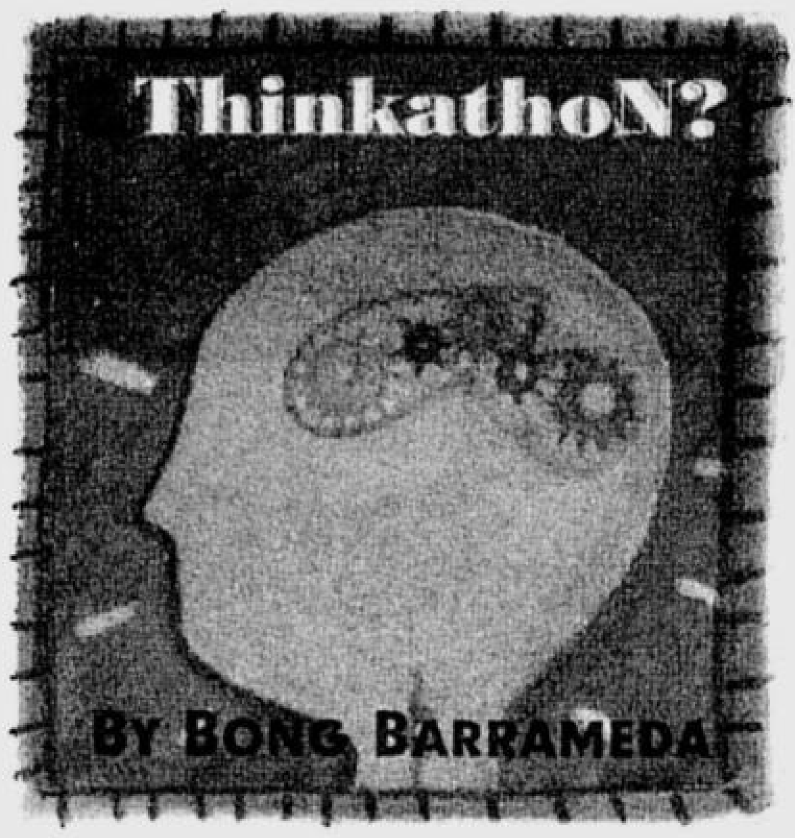
CHAMPIONS OF THE WILD. Many wild animals all over the world are now threatened with extinction, what with hunters around. But there are people who make it their mission to help these creatures to survive.

In Animal Planet's "Champions of the Wild" wildlife experts use technology and sheer determination to ensure the future existence of these beloved animals. "Champions of the Wild" airs every Sunday of July at 8:30 p.m.


The Adventures of atomo & weboy D' Buddha Bear
By LyRa ABueg GaRceLLano
more! more.
crunch. . crunch
ah don't shee a cuh-vee-chi-
mirror, mirror on the wall
sugar free candy
drool collector
tiny sink
buzz, buzz whrrrrrrr
cotton
something
... like a toothpick
has a mirror so dentist can check teeth at the back.
Weboy warming up the dentist's chair
sugary foods (you got candy, cakes, pastries, etc.) + not brushing teeth = OUCH!

You think your teeth's invincible? You think your teeth would live FOREVAH?!!! Think again! Atomo thinks she can gobble up all the crunchies and the munchies & her teeth would be fine. HA! It's hello tooth decay ---PAIN, PAIN, PAIN & stinky breath too!

WHO'S AFRAID of THE DENTIST?! Visit your friendly dentist & have those fangs.. oops, I mean, pearly whites & pinky gums checked. Brush regularly, Avoid SUGAR addiction. You'll appreciate healthy teeth & gums when you're older. REALLY!


ThinkathoN?

By Bong Barrameda

Bandang Pinoy

LISTED here are the first lines of hit songs by some of today's top Pinoy bands. Score 1 point if you can identify the group and another point if you can name the song as well. Perfect score is 24. You've got a 2-minute quiz clock. . .so let's rock!

1. *I used to have a cat / Who wouldn't ever wanna get fat*
   So she ate, a feathered pillow, yellow willow / A furry little fellow

2. *N'ung una kitang makilala, di man lang kita napuna*
   Di naman kasi ganoon kaganda, di ba?

3. *Oh I'm sorry girl for causing you so much pain / Didn't mean to make you cry*
   Make your efforts all in vain /
   And I apologize for all the things I've done

4. *What has life to offer me when I grow old?*
   What's there to look forward to beyond the biting cold
   ('Cause) They say it's difficult, yes, stereo typical.

5. *I love you for so long / And the promise you made*
   Keep me hanging on / And now I,
   I gotta know
   Is this love enough, shall we let it go

6. *Bake a cake to my taste / You dance away Belinda*
   Disappear in the light / Smile like that Belinda

7. *Isang gabing kasama ka / Walang ginagawang iba kundi mag-usap sa mata*
   Bigla akong tinawag Uwian na pala

8. *Lumpong naglalakad / Katabi niya'y haring nakahubad*
   Binging nakikinig sa iyak ng piping mayroong tinig
   Alisin ang 'yong maskara At idilat ang mga mata

9. *I did my best to make you see / Just how special we could really be*
   All I know is this love I feel for you / I've got to hold on, I'm holdin' on

10. *Kahit ano basta ikaw / Walang problema*
    Kahit buhay ibibigay / Ito'y pangako ko sinta

11. *Kaharap ko sa dyip ang isang ale /*
    Nagrorosaryo, mata niya'y nakapikit
    Pumara sa may kumbento / "Sa babaan lang po" sabi ng tsuper,
    "Kasi may nanghuhuli" / Mura pa rin nang mura ang ale

12. *Reklamo ng reklamo / Sa hirap ng buhay dito*
    Kapwa Pilipino / Ikinahihiya mo
    Masakit sa pandinig ko / Ang sinasabi mo
    SIguro'y gusto mong / Maging Amerikano

Answers

1. Eraserheads—"Cutterpillow"
2. Parokya ni Edgar—"Maniwala Ka Sana"
3. Freestyle—"This Time"
4. Afterimage—"Next In Line"
5. Side A—"Will I Ever"
6. Barbie's Cradle—"Belinda Bye Bye"
7. Rivermaya—"Nerbyoso"
8. Wolfgang—"Anino"
9. Passage—"Temporary Love"
10. Siakol—"Peksman"
11. Yano—"Banal Na Aso, Santong Kabayo"
12. The Jerks—"Reklamo Nang Reklamo"

Ratings

superbrain!
20 - 24

excellent!
15 - 19

good!
10 - 14

Kidsa-Mara'movin'!!!

(from page 1)

finish line, though, Kim fell promptly asleep in his *Tita* Eva's arms. A marathon IS hard work, you know.

Hey, I know you. . .

JI was happy to find some familiar faces in the crowd, including the musical Sarreal Kids. (Remember them? They're the siblings who each play a musical instrument and used the money they won in competitions to plant trees last year. Check out JI Dec. 30, 2000.) All six Sarreal siblings—Panggo, 17, Raymond, 15, Gideon, 14, Coby, 13, Angelie, 11 and Agnes, 10—joined the marathon. We asked clarinet-playing Angelie if sports and music go together and she replied, "Yes (because) if you can breathe longer, you can play (a wind instrument) better."

Many kids also came from out of town. Fellow boyscouts Orbille Ronquillo, 12, and Ramil Parrocha, 11, came all the way from Aurora Province. In fact, this is the second time Orbille and Ramil joined a Milo marathon. Last year, Orbille only made it to fifth place but this time he placed 3rd overall in the 3K run.

"I just kept on training for two months," Orbille informed us. Running, he added, is his favorite sport because "it keeps me away from bad influences."

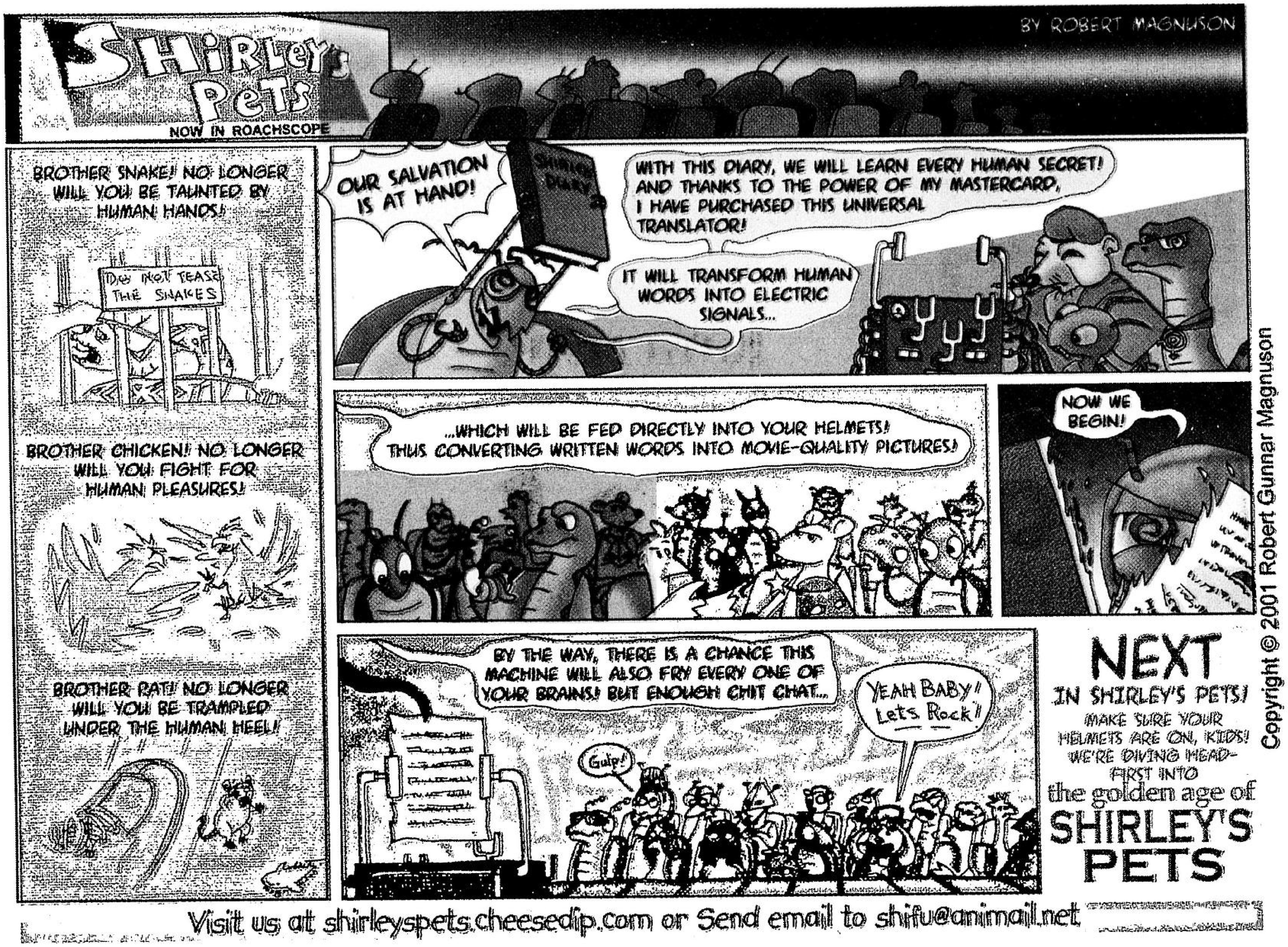
Thirteen-year-old Sealand Agana, on the other hand, is from Dasmariñas, Cavite. "When I grow up, I want to be in the Olympics, like Lydia de Vega," she said, smiling really wide.

Sealand had every reason to smile. Small and spry Sealand was the women's champ of the 5K race, besting runners who were bigger, taller and older.

"I just tried to run the way they did," she said describing her technique. After matching the stride of her fellow runners, she picked her own faster pace.

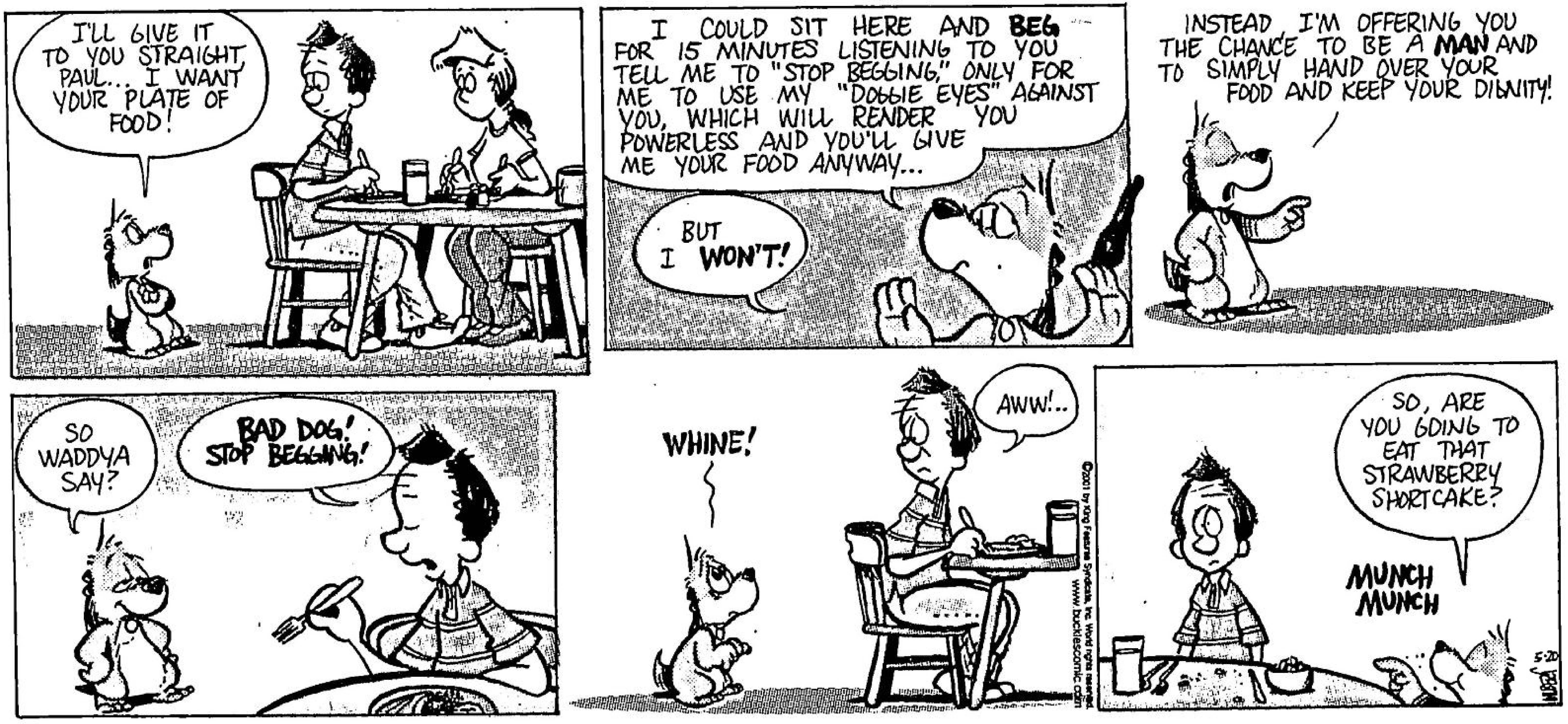
This year's runners were really amazing and it got us thinking, "What if JI joined next year?"

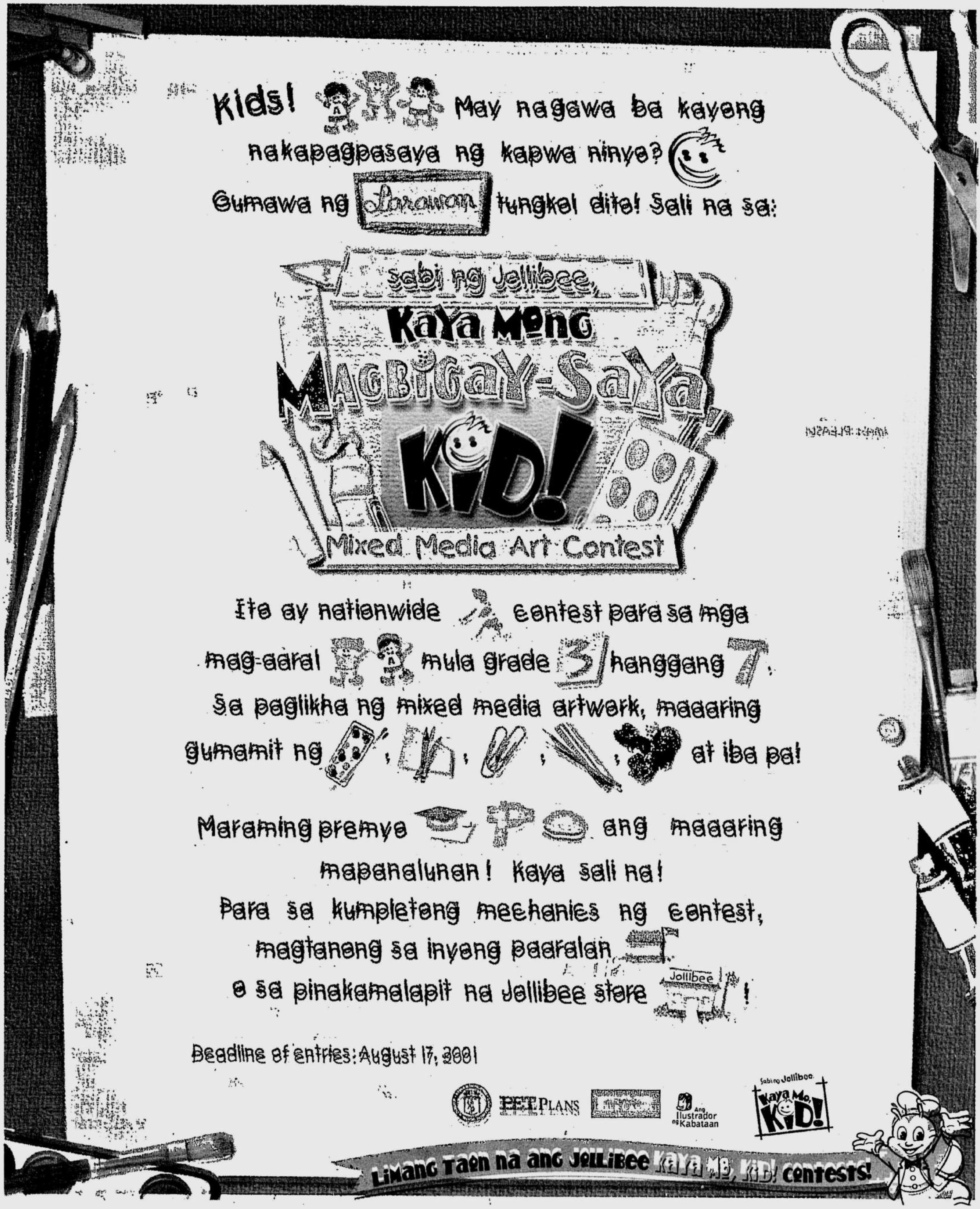
Hehehehe.


Shirley's Pets
NOW IN ROACHSCOPE
BY ROBERT MAGNUSON
BROTHER SNAKE! NO LONGER WILL YOU BE TAUNTED BY HUMAN HANDS!
DO NOT TEASE THE SNAKES
BROTHER CHICKEN! NO LONGER WILL YOU FIGHT FOR HUMAN PLEASURES!
BROTHER RAT! NO LONGER WILL YOU BE TRAMPLED UNDER THE HUMAN HEEL!
OUR SALVATION IS AT HAND!
SHIRLEY'S DIARY
WITH THIS DIARY, WE WILL LEARN EVERY HUMAN SECRET! AND THANKS TO THE POWER OF MY MASTERCARD, I HAVE PURCHASED THIS UNIVERSAL TRANSLATOR!
IT WILL TRANSFORM HUMAN WORDS INTO ELECTRIC SIGNALS...
...WHICH WILL BE FED DIRECTLY INTO YOUR HELMETS! THUS CONVERTING WRITTEN WORDS INTO MOVIE-QUALITY PICTURES!
NOW WE BEGIN!
BY THE WAY, THERE IS A CHANCE THIS MACHINE WILL ALSO FRY EVERY ONE OF YOUR BRAINS! BUT ENOUGH CHIT CHAT...
Gulp!
YEAH BABY!! Lets Rock!!
NEXT
IN SHIRLEY'S PETS!
MAKE SURE YOUR HELMETS ARE ON, KIDS! WE'RE DIVING HEAD-FIRST INTO
the golden age of
SHIRLEY'S PETS
Copyright © 2001 Robert Gunnar Magnuson
Visit us at shirleyspets.cheesedip.com or Send email to shifu@animail.net

BUCKLES

BY DAVID GILBERT


I'LL GIVE IT TO YOU STRAIGHT, PAUL... I WANT YOUR PLATE OF FOOD!
I COULD SIT HERE AND BEG FOR 15 MINUTES LISTENING TO YOU TELL ME TO "STOP BEGGING," ONLY FOR ME TO USE MY "DOGGIE EYES" AGAINST YOU, WHICH WILL RENDER YOU POWERLESS AND YOU'LL GIVE ME YOUR FOOD ANYWAY...
BUT I WON'T!
INSTEAD, I'M OFFERING YOU THE CHANCE TO BE A MAN AND TO SIMPLY HAND OVER YOUR FOOD AND KEEP YOUR DIGNITY!
SO WADDYA SAY?
BAD DOG! STOP BEGGING!
WHINE!
AWW!..
©2001 by King Features Syndicate, Inc. World rights reserved. www.bucklescomic.com
SO, ARE YOU GOING TO EAT THAT STRAWBERRY SHORTCAKE?
MUNCH MUNCH
5-20



Kids! May nagawa ba kayong nakapagpasaya ng kapwa ninyo? Gumawa ng Larawan tungkol dito! Sali na sa:

Sabi ng Jollibee,
Kaya Mong Magbigay-Saya, Kid!
Mixed Media Art Contest

Ito ay nationwide contest para sa mga mag-aaral mula grade 3 hanggang 7. Sa paglikha ng mixed media artwork, maaaring gumamit ng , , , , at iba pa!

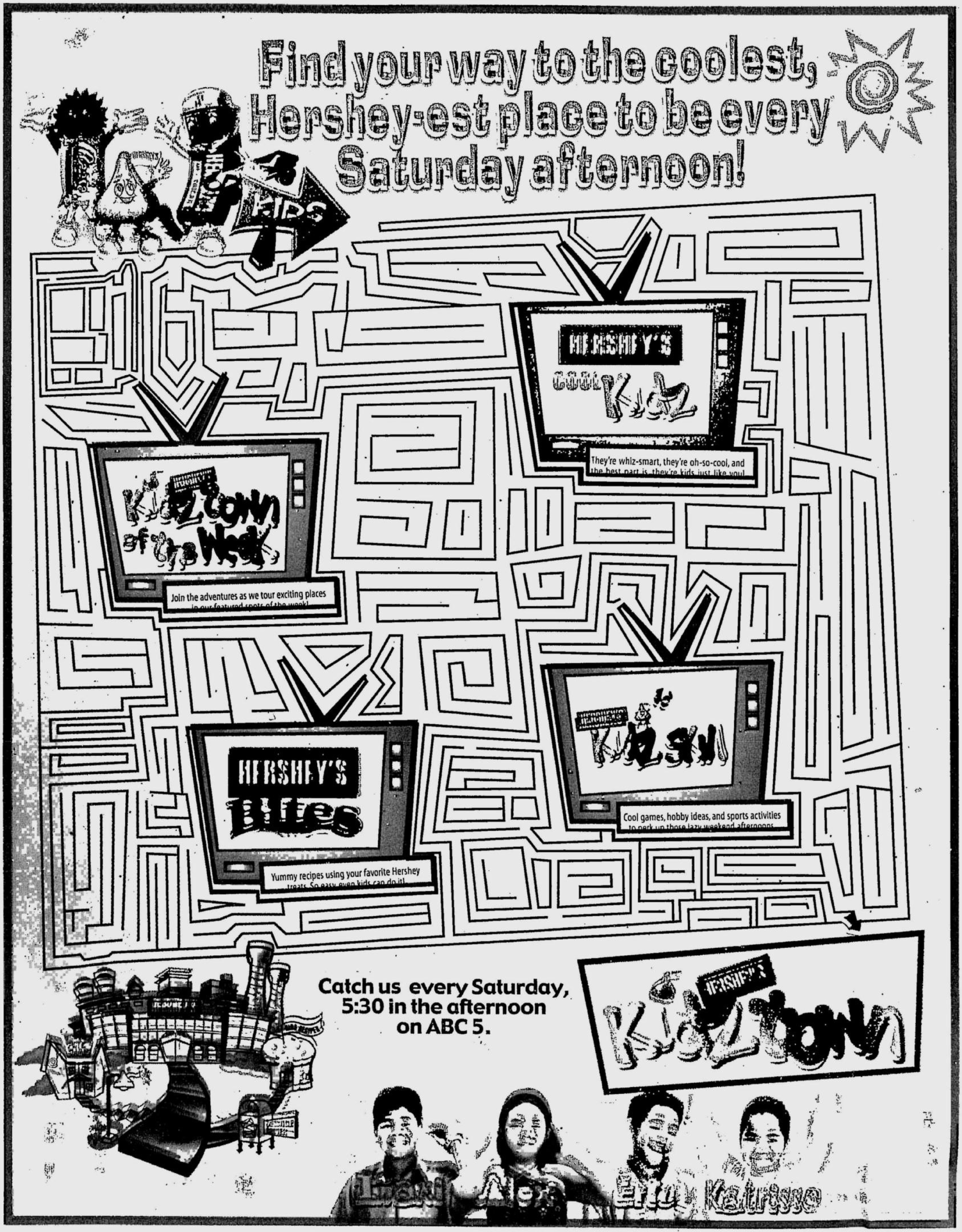
Maraming premyo ang maaaring mapanalunan! Kaya sali na!

Para sa kumpletong mechanics ng contest, magtanong sa inyong paaralan o sa pinakamalapit na Jollibee store!

Deadline of entries: August 17, 2001

Jollibee
PET PLANS
Ang Ilustrador ng Kabataan
Sabi ng Jollibee Kaya Mo, Kid!
Limang Taon na ang Jollibee Kaya Mo, Kid! Contests!

Find your way to the coolest, Hershey-est place to be every Saturday afternoon!


KIDS
HERSHEY'S
Cool Kidz
Kidztown of the Week
HERSHEY'S
Bites
HERSHEY'S
Kidztown
Katrisse

They're whiz-smart, they're oh-so-cool, and the best part is, they're kids just like you!

Join the adventures as we tour exciting places in our featured spots of the week!

Cool games, hobby ideas, and sports activities to perk up those lazy weekend afternoons.

Yummy recipes using your favorite Hershey treats. So easy even kids can do it!

**Catch us every Saturday,
5:30 in the afternoon
on ABC 5.**